



Kenwood World Map!



Great Greenweld Goodies Catalogue!



President Lincoln 28MHz Rig Review 🍁

It's A Classic... The Trio TR-2300

July 2001









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22 MAIN RD, HOCKLEY, ESSEX, SSS 4QS CHESTERFIELD RD, MATLOCK, DERBYSHIRE, DE4 5LE

ІСОМ

IC-70BIIG 180 - 70cm All Mode



Still a firm favourite with mobile operators and those who want a compact all-mode, all-band station. Phone for latest leaflet.

FT-817 YAESU



FT-817 (shown with new Auto ATU as featured on opposite page) is an incredible design feat by Yaesu, and world reviews agree that there has never been anything like it. It's not expensive either. So why not get out in the fresh air, or put one in the car, and put the fun back into your radio. Check out the exciting AT & ATX portable antennas on elsewhere on this page.

TS-2000

KENWOOD 180m - 70cms + 23cms



The amazing TS-2000 offers coverage from HF to UHF. And you can go right up to 23cms with the optional module Monitor the DX cluster whilst working other DX, optimise your satellite contacts, enjoy the benefit of built-in ATU. It's all there in one very compact box. Colour brochures available on request.

YAESU FT-1000MP MK-V 200W HF All Mode Transceiver



£2399

The New Industry Standard . Would a Serious DXer accept anything else ?

In choosing the FT-1000MP Mk V, you will be proud to own a rig with an impressive specification, reputation and lineage. Its outstanding performance and attention to detail, makes this the premier HF transceiver for the 21st Century. This radio is a class leader.

YAESU FT-1000MP AC

180 - 10m All Mode



ing dual

It has stood the test of time and used by the worlds top DXers and DXepeditions. Its excellent receiver combined with its superior transted signal makes this a natural choice for the HF enthusiasts. 19.4% APR: Deposit £199 and 36 months at £57.77.

ICOM *IC-746*

180m - 2m All-mode



mode" transceiver at a very competitive price. The IC-746 offers 100 Watts output on all bands and has a receiver performance to match. Limited stock at this price.

19.4% APR: Deposit £145 and 36 months at £45.13.

KENWOOD TM-241E 2m Mobile



Your chance to purchase this 50W 2m mobile at a fraction of the original price. We have purchased the entire stock. Includes CTCSS tones and can be wide-banded. Limited stocks available. 19.4% APR: Deposit £299 and 36 months at £90.27.

IC-758PRO ICOM 1.8 - 62MHz 100W



£1895 Free desk/mic

You've read the rave reviews, and you have seen our recommendation on the web site. This radio with its amazing receiver and digital filtering, also includes auto ATU and real-time spectrum scope. A great DX rig.

19.4% APR: Deposit £229 and 36 months at £71.13.

YAESU*FT- 920AF*



Includes full DSP and internal ATU. High tech receiver with dual tuning controls. Uses many of the FT1000 MP features but at a more attractive price. Full breakin on CW and includes a data port for TNC.

19.4% APR: Deposit £129 and 36 months at £35.02.

IC-776 DSP 200W HF Last of The Many



YAESU FT-847 180m - 70cm All Mode



SCOOP!

The FT-847 has firmly established itself as a true allband, all-mode transceiver. Loved by the VHF & UHF operators, and superb for satellite operation, it also offers great HF performance. We have sold more than any other dealer, which says a lot about our reputation and our price. Phone for free leaflet today. And remember, our stock is genuine UK, not modified overseas models!!

19.4% APR: Deposit £129 and 36 months at £38.63.

KENWOOD **T5-67006** 160 - 10m All Mode



Probably the most underestimated transceiver on the market. Don't be fooled by the low price, the TS-570 has one of the best receivers around. One of the best buys if you want top HF performance on a budget.

19.4% APR: Deposit £89 and 36 months at £27.43.

KENWOOD TS-505 HF 100W



Kenwoods TS-50 has stood the tes of time, 100W from 160m to 10 makes this a grevalue rig. Ideal fo mobile or portabl

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Out and About Antennas

Mobile "Drive About" 80m - 6m

Driveabout Mobiles

Multiband base loaded whip. Choice of powers, 3/8" stud base.

Driveabout LP 50W £69.95 Driveabout HP 200W £89.95 Centre load adaptor £t.b.a.

Walkabout Portables

Multi & single telescopic whips Covers 80m to 6m BNC. Ideal for FT-817 and similar QRP radios.

ATX Walkabout 80 - 6m 669.95 AT-80 Single band £24.95 AT-40 Single band £24.95 AT-20 Single band £19.95 AT-17 Single band €19.95 AT-15 Single band £19 95 AT-12 Single band £19.95 AT-10 Single band £19.95



WMM-3 Data Modem

269,95 Carr \$6.00

WA'SON

This modem permits a wide range of data to be sent and received. Starterdisc for SSTV,

CW, RTTY, Pactor, 1200baud Packet etc.included. The unit is powered from the PC serial socket.

WEP-400 Earpiece This high quality ear-

piece fits snugly over the ear and provides extra fidelity over normal models. Fitted with 3.5mm mono plug.



£14.95 Carr. £2.00

Leads **30.83**

Mobile 12V DC

Carr. £2.00

Fused DC lead with plug to match current mobiles.

WSA-1 PSK-31 Adaptor

All you need to connect up to your sound card and run PSK-31. Includes CD soft-



FBI-9 Almost Invisible!

This skin coloured earpiece is almost invisible at a distance and is left/right adjustable. Fitted with 3.5mm mono plug

29.95 Carr. £2.00

Flexweave **Antenna Wire**



It won't tangle and is ideal for wire antennas

PL-259 to 3/8" socket £3.95

SP-170F Mobile Speaker



£12.95 Carr. £2.00

Fitted with volume control and switched filter, it measures 97 x 67 x 27mm and has a 3m lead with 3.5mm mono plug

& Solar Panel

£12.95

Carr. £3.00

This amazing

Handy Adaptors

Connector Set

Torch Radio with Dynamo

torch incorporates a full FM and AM

radio. It can be powerd from 4 x AA

cells (extra), the internal dynamo, or

from the solar panel on top. And all

Avair VSWR Power Meters

1.8 - 200MHz 5/20/200/400W

140 - 525MHz 5/20/200/400W

1.8 -525MHz 5/20/200/400W

All fitted with SO-239, PEP/RMS readings, 3W for FSD

Watson Power AC Supplies

Connect annything to anything. 6 mating pcs. to produce "N", BNC, SO-239, PL-259, SMA. Mini UHF, TNC, plugs or sockets



PL-5/8

£49.95 Carr. £2.00

WM-308 Base Mic

The perfect answer for a high quality base microphone. Built-in pre-amp powered from rig or 2 x AA, electronic PTT and FM/SSB response switch. Includes lead with 8pin plug.

Station Clock WWC-411

QS-112 Speaker Mic



offers 12 or 24 hour

cates date and temper-

ature in C or F. Size is

26.6cm diameter and it

Models for Yaesu,

Kenwood, Icom.

216.95

Carr. £2.00

Frequency Counters

Each counter is supplied with

internal Ni-Cad pack, AC charg-er and whip antenna.

10MHz - 3GHz

1MHz - 3GHz

10Hz - 3GHz

S. Searcher 10MHz - 3GHz

Alinco and

Motorola.

requires 2 x AA cells

display. It also indi-

NiMH Cells & Chargers



1400mAh AA size cells for high current applications

Pack of 4xAA £9.95 Automatic 4-way AC charger for NiMH and Ni-Cad cells. 230v AC charger £9.95

CS-600 2-way Coax Switch

This well-made 2-way coax switch is ideal for HF, 2m and 70cms. Fitted with SO-239 sockets.it will handle up to 500 Watts RF



£12.95 Carr. £3.00

WCT-321 Lapel Talker

Earpiece with combined lapel hanging mic and PTT Models to suit most radios.



Models to suit almost any

rig. Head/neck band with

adjustable mini-mic boom

and transmit/receive

£44,95

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CE & LVD Approved



switch box. Drive safely!

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| W-3A | Fixed 3 Amp | £22.95 |
| W-5A | Fixed 5 Amp | £29.95 |
| W-10AN | M Variable 10 Amp | £59.95 |
| W-25AN | M Variable 25 Amps | £89.95 |
| W-30AN | M Variable 30 Amps | £119.99 |
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| W-3A | Fixed 3 Amp | 122.95 |
|--------|--|---------------------------------|
| V-5A | Fixed 5 Amp | £29.95 |
| V-10AN | Variable 10 Amp | £59.95 |
| V-25AN | Variable 25 Amps | £89.95 |
| V-30AN | Variable 30 Amps | £119.99 |
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Portable Supply

Houses 13.8V 17Ah sealed cell. Has 2 x cigar sockets, 3-6-9V outputs at 1A and large crock clips. Will power 100W rigs! Package includes AC



Carr. £2.00

HF Mobile Whips All whips are 2-section helical 2.25m

WHF-160 £49.95 £18.95 £18.95 WHF-80 £19.95 WHF-15 WHF-12 WHF-40 £18.95 £18.95 **WHF-10** WHF-20 £18.95

Whip Accessories

| W-BM1 | Ball mount 3/8" | £19.95 |
|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| MMT-1 | Impedance matching xfr. | £19.95 |
| 3401 | 3-way mag mount 3/8" | £39.95 |
| SS-504 | Heavy duty spring 3/8" | £6.95 |

at an amazing price! **HF Accessories**

Great value and

one just right for

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€59.95

great perform-ance. There's

VOU.

| ECW | 50m 16g enamelled copper wire | £12.9 |
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| HDCW | 50m hard drawn 16g copper | £14.9 |
| PVC-50 | 50m clear covered multi-strand | £39.9 |
| WAL-55 | 16.76m alloy wire 3.5mm | £7.95 |
| WEW-50 | 50m Lightweight pvc wire | £9.95 |
| WGR-330 | 30m Polyprop 14kg strain | €6.95 |
| WGR-430 | 30m Polyprop 45kg strain | £14.9 |
| WGR-630 | 30m Polyprop 130kg strain | £29.9 |
| Kevlair | 60m 181kg strain (Dacron) | £22.9 |
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Base Antennas

LadderLoc Centre insulator for 450 Ohm

2m / 70cm fibre glass colinears with stainless steel fittings, 3 short radials and SO-239 sockets. Pre-tuned and all hardware for mast mounting.

| Judi Danie | 2 LINTOUTING |
|------------|---------------------|
| W-30 | 3/6dB 1.15m long |
| W-50 | 4.5/7.2dB 1.8m long |
| W-300 | 6.5/9dB 3.1m long |
| Triple ban | d 6m/2m/70cms |
| W-2000 | 0/6/9dB 2.5m long |

£49.95 259.95 269.95

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W-GMV Deluxe Key

FC-130

S. Hunter

A high quality Morse key made of brass with wood base. Full set of adjustments





£79.95

£99.95



Has 4-way 3.5mm



SPM-102 Speaker Mic

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Incredible value! plug for VX-1, VX-FT-50 and IQ-7E





Switch Mode W-10SM Fixed 10 Amp W-20SM Fixed 20 Amp W-40SM Fixed 40 Amp

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Order details on inside page



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- * 5W Output on 13.8V DC
- * CTCSS Encode / Decode
- 25 / 12.5kHz Steps
- * Auto Repeater Shift
- **AM Airband Receive** Lithium Cells & Charger

VX-1R

Plus Freebies!

YAESU Free Case, CN-3 and SPM-102 speaker mic.

- 2m /& 70cm Handheld
- * 500mW or 1W Output
- CTCSS Encode / Decode
- * 25 / 12.5kHz Steps

- Widehand receive
- **AM Airband Receive**







- 2m / 70cm Handheld
- * 5W Output on 13.8V DC
- * CTCSS Encode / 1750Hz tone
- * 25 / 12.5kHz Steps
- * 30 Memory Channels
- **AM Airband Receive**
- * Ni-cad Cells & Charger



KENWOOD TM-D700E

2m / 70cm Data

Mobile





Just arriving, this new model has built-in TNC, port for GPS, Data connector for SSTV, RTTY etc., CTCSS/DCS, Switchable TX/RX deviation, Dual receive, Wide receive option, Detachable head unit, 50 Watts on 2m, 35 Watts on 70cm, 200 memories, Alpha tag memo capability and a lot more. And who has the best price? - look no further!



Great value mobile antennas

W-285 2m 5/8th whip with PL-259 base £14.95 W-7900 2m/70cm 5 & 7.5dB length 1.58m £32.95 W-627 6m / 2m / 70cm 2 / 4.5 7.2dB length 1.6m £34.95 W-770HB 2m/70cm whip 3dB / 5.5dB length 1.1m £24.95 All with tiltover bases.

Base Co-linears 2m/70cms Fibre Glass

W-30 3/6dB L1.15m £39.95 W-50 4.5/7.2dB L 1.8m £49.95 W-300 6.5/9dB L3.1m £59.95 These antennas are pretuned and have short base radials

IC-910 VHF/UHF Transceiver



£1299

IC-910 VHF/UHF Transceiver -The new IC-910 from Icom with 100W on 2m and 75W on 70cms, plus the

option of 1.2GHz. Well placed to take advantage of satellite operation, you can simultaneously operate 2 bands at once. Optional 23cms + £400

YAESU

FT-11A

2-Metre Handheld

Another find in a warehouse! Brand new, boxed with AC chargers and ni-cad packs. 75 Alphanumeric memories, AM airband rx mod possible. Last selling price £249! Very limited





In Full Colour! 2m & 70cm Mobile

Colour TV Screen **Full CTCSS and**

- 1750Hz Tone
- 50W 2m 35W 70cm

Includes FREE Remote head cable

£259

KENWOOD TH-DTE

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- * Built-in Packet Modem
- * 200 Alphanumeric Memories
- * DTMF Keypad & AM Airband
- * Ni-cads & AC charger



FT-SUR Can you believe the stze?



2m/70cm Dual Band 6083 Plus £7.50 Carr 145,500

The tiny dimensions of the FT-90R from Yaesu, are hard to believe. Yet it produces 50W on 2m and 35W on 70cm. Auto repeater shift on UK channels and switched 12.5 / 25kHz deviation, make this a number one choice.

ADI AR-147



269.95

WATSON 1

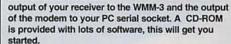


- 2m 50 Watt Mobile Airband Receive
- * Full CTCSS Encode / Decode
- 81 Memories 25 / 12.5kHz Steps
- * Keypad microphone & Mounting Kit

WMM-3

Data Modes

If you want to receive data, then connect the audio



ICOM IC-R3

PICTURE THE DIFFERENCE 'Full UK TV coverage



- 0.495-2450 MHz
- Advanced Lithium battery
- ALL DAY battery life
- 450 Memories
- · FM / WFM & AM
- * 2" TFT colour display * Bandscope & automatic squelch
- * 8 background colour choices
- * Size 61 x 120 x 33mm



also receives 23 & 13cm amateur FM-TV 900-1300MHz 2250-2450MHz

IC-207H **ICOM**





- * 2m / 70cm
- * 50W / 35W
- 180 Memories and 7 Tuning Steps
- * Detachable Head Unit / Clear Display
- * Microphone, Mounting Bracket etc.

KENWOOD **TM-6707E**



* 2m and 70cm

* 50W and 35W **Full CTCSS**

* 180 Alphanumeric Memories

* Detachable Head with Amber Display

YAESU FT-8100R



- 2m and 70cm
- 50W and 35W
- Wideband RX AM & FM 208 Memories
- 7 Tuning Steps DTMF Remote Front panel
- Very compact, supplied with all hardware.

KENWOOD

2m / 70cm Mobile



CTCSS & DTMF * 8 Frequency Steps &



280 Memories Includes Microphone & Mounting Bracket

IJϴʹʹϛϴͶ

Dual Band VHF Yagi



This is a fabulously well-built dual band 2m/70cm Yagi with dual gamma matching, 5 el. on 2m and 9 el on 70cms gives you 7dB and 12.5dB gain. Fitted with SO-239 and rated to 100 Watts FM. £79.95 Carriage £7.50

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Cover Subject

Keen 28MHz operator Jon Wheeler was really keen to 'parade' the President Lincoln 28MHZ transceiver. Using the rig in the sunshine during May he achieved QSOs as far afield as Japan! In fact Jon was so smitten with this rig that he's bought one!

Photograph by: **Kevin Romang G4SKN** Design by: **Steve Hunt**



Kenwood world map and Greenweld

Teatures

17 Looking At.....

Join Gordon King G4VFV as he takes a look at audio stages.

22 Radio Basics

Moving coil meters are an extremely useful 'tool' to have on your workbench, so this month **Rob**Mannion G3XFD gives you some ideas on how to use them in your shack. There's also a little maths homework too!

24 The President Lincoln 28MHz Multi-mode Transceiver

Jon Wheeler GOIUE was very pleased when asked to go on 'parade' with the President Lincoln 28MHz transceiver. Read Jon's review to find out why he liked it so much that he decided to buy the review model.

30 A Three-Band QRP CW Transmitter

Carmel Fenech 9H1AQ shares an idea for a simple-to-build QRP three-valved three-band c.w. transmitter specifically aimed at the newcomer to Amateur Radio.

34 Antenna Workshop

A pair of lightweight vertical portable antennas are put through their paces by our v.h.f. author **David Butler G4ASR** this month.

36 Edison & The Invention Factory

Several inventors and inventions have helped to shape radio and make it what we know today. **Dick Pascoe GOBPS** reflects on Thomas Edison's famous inventions.

38 Royal International Air Tattoo Competition

30 lucky *PW* readers will watch the skies come alive at this year's RIAT at RAF Cottesmore. Enter our easy competition to be in with a chance of winning one of 15 pairs of tickets.

42 One Wire - Three Bands

One wire does it all! **Denis Payne G3KCR** describes a three band dipole that he's found great for using on the 14. 21 and 28MHz bands.

43 Errors & Updates

The gremlins have been at work again! So to sort things out we bring you some ammendments to articles recently published.

44 It's A Classic....

Richard Newton GORSN owns a pair of Trio TR-2300 hand-sized portable transceivers and reckons they are great for hill-topping, portable operation and really do stand the test of time.

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Visiting the Spanish Canary Islands turned into a truly enjoyable Amateur Radio holiday for **Jack Drake GM4MOX**. He shares his experiences and offers some hints and tips for taking your hobby on holiday.

52 Carrying on the Practical Way

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69 Tune In

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70 **Bargain Basement**

The bargains just keep on coming! Looking for a specific piece of kit? - Check out our readers' ads, you never know what you may find

72 Book Store

The biggest and best selection of radio related books anywhere!

77 **Topical Talk**

This month take a tour with us around the recent London Amateur Radio and Computing show.



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Our Radio Scene reporters' contact details in one easy reference point.

Author Info

Our Radio Scene reporters contact details in one easy reference point.

VHF DXer

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Packet: G3LDI@GB7LDI

Tune-in Tom Walters PO Box 4440 Walton Essex CO14 8BX

E-mail: tom.walters@aib.org.uk

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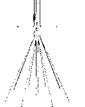
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ANOTHER PACKED ISSUE

rob mannion's **keylines**

Welcome to 'Keylines'! Each month Rob introduces topics of interest and comments on current news.

raditionally **PW** readers expect us to provide a suitable April Fool spoof article or little joke. On the occasions over the years we've not had space to continue the tradition, readers have told me how disappointed they were at not having their legs pulled! However, this year our spoof - The Switch Mode Receiver by Denzil Roden G3KXF provided very distinctive reactions: readers were either extremely cross or they thought it was a very clever joke indeed!

The reaction from some readers surprised me and I think that they were so cross because (like myself) they really were fooled when they first read it. But on second reading it became obvious it was a joke and the red hot keyboards sizzled their E-mails and letters onwards to the PW officel

Thanks go to Denzil G3KXF for the original idea and to Tex Swann G1TEX for the innovative photography and providing the Acrylic (standing in for the Russian Cyrillic) lettering on the p.c.b. We can can't promise not to pull your legs next year!

Reader Rescues Rob!

Following my request asking readers if they could help me find a replacement copy of F J Camm The Practical Man (May Keylines) I'm delighted to say that Michael Rowntree, of Wellingborough in Northamptonshire kindly obliged.

Michael sent me the book and suggested that I donate something to the Radio Amateurs' Invalid and Blind Club. This I did with pleasure - sending a cheque to Michael to send on to the RAIBC.

My new book had its first outing when I provided a PW 'Club Talk' on Friday 18 May at the **Torbay Amateur Radio Society** in Newton Abbot, Devon. They enjoyed seeing the book and I hope to share it with more of you...thanks to the generosity of Michael in Northamptonshire. Thanks Michael - your kind gesture was much appreciated!

Brian Ward

Many readers, especially those who responded to his comments as published in the PW readers' letters column will remember the initials and name of B. C. N. Ward of Manchester. The writer - Brian Ward - wrote some critical letters which along with drawing attention to the errors appearing in PW, also seemed to be slating Radio Amateurs and the Amateur Radio hobby.

Unfortunately, I've now heard (from his executor who is a licensed Radio Amateur himself) that Brian died in March following a major operation. As I had learned from his (personal) letters to me - he'd suffered ill health for a while, but I didn't realise just how ill he was. I'd also realised that he lived alone and was in fact very keen on Amateur Radio although his

single person flat was totally unsuitable for our hobby - with the added problem of a large electrical sub-station transformer adjacent to the property. In other words, it turns out he was a truly frustrated budding Amateur.

However, following the controversial comments Brian Ward had published in PW, I think it's appropriate to mention that all his equipment has been donated (his express wishes) to an Amateur Radio Novice Class group. Personally, I think Brian Ward's gesture really showed his absolutely precise nature and approach to life and what he thought of our hobby. It's a great pity we weren't able to help him to enjoy it more himself. So, let's hope that more house bound, severely disabled potential Amateurs can and do get support in the future.

Fishing For DX

Realising the QSL card (for a 28MHz c.w. QSO) shown on the left here - used the same title (Fishing For DX -Antenna Workshop, February 2001) as my original article along with the Funkteknik telescopic fishing rod mast as I enjoy using - reader Graham Slack G4AKR sent it to me. Appropriately enough we've got an article on holiday DXing from the Canary Islands this month tool

Graham hopes to be active soon with his mast and

Kenwood TS-50 when the Foot & Mouth disease outbreak has been eradicated in his part of Yorkshire. I wish you a good DX catch Graham!

Competition Cock-Up!

My apologies for the competition cock-up in the May issue of PW. Somehow (we still don't know why) the word **Unit** disappeared from the SGC wordsearch competition after we'd thoroughly checked it here before it was sent to the printers.

Many readers contacted us and everyone who did was assured that results would be also judged on 11 words found rather than 12. You can be sure that any Gremlins entering don't stand a chance of the prize!

Free Gifts

By now you will have found your free gifts this month - the superb World Map jointly presented by Kenwood Electronics (UK) and ourselves and the Greenweld Goodies catalogue. The Kenwood map - long appreciated by keen DXers and listeners alike - can now take pride of place in

constructors find those bargains to encourage them to get building. So, enjoy reading it and then plug that soldering iron in and get busy!

Rob G3XFD

practical wireless **SETVICES**

Just some of the services Practical Wireless offers to readers...

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are available at £30 per annum to UK addresses, £38 in Europe and £42 (Airsaver), £49 (Airmail) overseas. Subscription copies are despatched by accelerated Surface Post outside Europe. Airmail rates for overseas subscriptions can be quoted on request. Joint subscriptions to both Practical Wireless and Short Wave Magazine are available at £60 (UK) £73 (Europe) and £81 (rest of world), £85 (airmail).

Components For PW Projects

In general all components used in constructing PW projects are available from a variety of component suppliers. Where special, or difficult to obtain, components are specified, a supplier will be quoted in the article. The printed circuit boards for PW projects are available from the PW PCB Service, Kanga Products, Sandford Works, Cobden Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10 1BL. Tel: 0115 - 967 0918. Fax: 0870 - 056 8608.

Photocopies & Back Issues

We have a selection of back issues, covering the past three years of $\ensuremath{\textit{PW}}$. If you are looking for an article or review that you missed first time around, we can help. If we don't have the whole issue we can always supply a photocopy of the article. Back issues for PW are £2.50 each and photocopies are £2.50 per article. Binders are also available (each binder takes one volume) for £6.50 plus £1 P&P for one binder. £2 P&P for two or more, UK or overseas. Prices include VAT where

A complete review listing for *PW/SWM* is also available from the Editorial Offices for £1 inc P&P.

Placing An Order

annronriate.

Orders for back numbers, binders and items from our Book Store should be sent to: PW Publishing Ltd., Post Sales Department, Arrowsmith Court, Station Approach, Broadstone Dorset BH18 8PW, with details of your credit card or a cheque or postal order payable to PW Publishing Ltd. Cheques with overseas orders must be drawn on a London Clearing Bank and in Sterling. Credit card orders (Access, Mastercard, Eurocard, AMEX or Visa) are also welcome by telephone to Broadstone (01202) 659930. An answering machine will accept your order out of office hours and during busy periods in the office. You can also FAX an order, giving full details to Broadstone (01202) 659950. The E-mail address is bookstore@pwpublishing.ltd.uk

Technical Help

We regret that due to Editorial time scales, replies to technical gueries cannot be given over the telephone. Any technical gueries by E-mail are very unlikely to receive immediate attention either. So, if you require help with problems relating to topics covered by PW, then please write to the Editorial Offices, we will do our best to help and reply by mail.



Tenerife · Canary Islands

The Greenweld catalogue will help

Practical Wireless, July 2001

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Make your own 'waves' by writing into *PW* with your comments, ideas, opinions and general 'feedback'.

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.

Editor's chastened reply: Now I know better Ray...when I call CQ on 7MHz perhaps it should be "CQ 131, CQ 131" (Feet!)?

Hospital Broadcasting & Amateur Radio

Dear Sir

I was delighted to read the article in May's *PW*, about **Dick Pascoe G0BPS** and his involvement with hospital radio. Your readers may be interested to know that there are over 300 hospital radio stations in the UK, most of which belong to the

Hospital Broadcasting Association (HBA), of which I am the Membership Officer.

As well as providing services to member stations, the HBA offers a means of putting potential volunteers in touch with their local station. Anyone wishing to find out how to contact their local station should contact me and I'll send them the details. Although E-mail is the preferred and quickest means of communication, if they write to me I'll respond as quickly as possible.

For those with internet access, there's a very short and incomplete list of licensed Radio Amateurs who are also involved in hospital radio on my website, at

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/paul_duell/h rhams and anyone who'd like their name and callsign attached to that list is welcome to E-mail me at the address below.

Paul Duell G0TLG,

Membership Officer National Association of Hospital Broadcasting

Organisations

3 Treeside Road Shirley

Southampton

SO15 5FY

E-mail: membership@hbauk.com

Metric From The Beginning?

Dear Sir

The Editor's footnote comment to the reader's letter in *PW* (headed **Politically Correct** - May 2001) saying that "Radio science has been metric from the beginning" **might not be quite correct**. So, with respect may I offer the following which could be of some interest.

A paper I have seen (dated 22 September 1914) reports results of successful trials of an aircraft wireless transmitter made to Admiralty specifications, described as follows: A Mira Ignition coil, a brass spark gap, Dubilier condenser 0.002µF, a flat spiral inductance with power provided by an 8V, 10Ah accumulator. Total weight of apparatus including battery 18 pounds. Range of wavelengths from the primary circuit **300** to **1000 feet**.

The specification for an aircraft receive of mid 1914 called for a wavelength coverage of from **500** to **3000** feet. A letter dated 15 March 1917 from the Air Department requesting co-operation in listening out for an air test using c.w. (as opposed to spark) gives the wavelength on which to listen as **5050 feet**.

The previous reported events involved all the armed forces of that period. In addition the Marconi company in January 1915 reported that they were looking into an aeroplane receiver to cover 600 to 1000 foot waves. Thus in this early period the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Flying Corps and civilian supplier were all in step as it were...foot by foot!

Ray Coley G3IFF Havant Hants

The Band & Cluster Police

Dear Sir

In the book The Complete DXer by **Bob Locher**, the author makes several references to the Band Police. These are the selfappointed individuals who sit on the transmit frequency of a DX station and continually inform other Amateurs that the DX station is working split by sending 'up-up' or other such informative comments. These comments only serve to obliterate the DX station's signal usually when they're passing some important information such as QSL details. The Band Police turn up all over the place and can make working DX almost impossible.

Well, now it seems another group is emerging, The Cluster Police! These self-appointed individuals make it their job to monitor the spots on their local cluster and pass comments to the spotter as to validity of their spot.

As an example, recently I worked a Spanish event station, having worked it I monitored for a while to see what custom it got. After several CQs without response I decided to spot him on the Cluster after all it cost me nothing. It worked and other stations began to call in.

A few moments later a local station initiated a talk request to me and informed me that the Spanish station wasn't really DX and that this wasn't the purpose of the Cluster. Against my better judgement I decided not to reply and eventually the talk request terminated.

A few days later I had another encounter with the

Cluster Police I noted that the YV5B beacon in Venezuela and LU44AA beacon were getting stronger at my QTH indicating that 14MHz was opening up to South America. I spotted both beacons on the cluster to give those working on other bands an idea that 14MHz propagation was changing, I glanced up at the screen only to find that I was being reprimanded by another 'policeman' asking "Why are you spotting beacons"? This really annoyed me so I returned the talk request and explained that "others may not know about the change in conditions and were there any rules against it"? I received no reply.

I always understood the Cluster Network to be a tool for the Amateur. A method of getting information that you would otherwise be unaware of me and others like me use the cluster as a second op and any information, whether it be relevant to me or not, is welcome. I appreciate that, although some information appearing on my screen may not be useful to me, it's likely to be useful to someone else.

I find it sad that there are people out there with nothing better to do than to criticise others. If we all passed comments on the spots that we deemed were not relevant then eventually no one would spot anything for fear of criticism and the network would be useless. Let's look after this most useful of tools and encourage not discourage the contribution of information.

In closing I'll just add that it's interesting to note that when you check the files to see how many spots the 'policemen' have put on the system for others to use...it usually amounts to zero!

Chris Carrington
G0IYZ

Practical Wireless, July 200

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Chellaston Derby

Editor's comment: If the 'policemen' want to do something really useful they could keep the packet stations (on 14MHz) and s.s.b. stations (on 18MHz particularly) off the International Beacon Project frequencies. But would they make the QRM problems worse?

Looking At S-Meters

Dear Sir

Gordon King G4VFV's latest topic in his series Looking at... dealt with receiver S-meter measurements. I think it's a timely one and will no doubt clear up many points. However, I would like to put forward a few things about the dBm.

All transmission systems involve the transfer of power from the sender to the receiver. For the purposes of measurement and adjustment of this power a reference level is required, this level being the milliwatt. Specifically 1 milliwatt abbreviated symbol m. This dBm is a certain power level referred to 'One milliwatt' being positive above 1mW, negative below 1mW.

It's customary to omit 'm' when dealing with differences between levels though. For instance, an amplifier A may have so many dB gain compared to the output of amplifier B in which case B could be said to be so many dB down on that of A.

In the article its stated that -73dBm when dissipated in 50Ω results in a potential difference (PD) of 50 millivolts. Whether or not this figure is a printing error*(It was, see below Editor). I wouldn't know. It should read μV (50 microvolts).

For those whose needto-know urge beats hard within the breast (and at the risk of boring old hands) this result can be confirmed by the use of two formulae:

$$dB = 10 \log_{10} \left(\frac{P_{out}}{P_{in}} \right)$$

$$E = \sqrt{WR}$$

Which will present no problem to those with an arithmetic bent. However, for the sake of completeness here is the result as obtained on a Casio Scientific calculator.

Keystrokes and display as for a Casio fx-451 scientific calculator

I hope to hear more on the subject!

Alan Pidgeon G6CBP Worcester

Editor's comment: Please see the Errors & Updates in this issue (Page 43) for the article in question. Additionally, there's been so much interest shown in this topic that Gordon G4VFV is planning to delve more deeply into the subject in a later article.

The MFJ-616 & Hearing Problems

Dear Sir

Following the review by the **Rev. Hubert Makin G3FDC** of the MFJ-616 Speech Intelligibility Enhancer and the apt comments by **Peter Knowles MOBRV** (Radio Waves June *PW*), I have ordered one. Having lost some of my high frequency response, I work with groups who have hearing loss. Despite hearing being one of our two main sensory inputs, it is grossly neglected, even abused.

Hearing loss affects one in seven of the population - 8.7 million people, so there's a lot of it about. There are many simple electrical and electronic devices to help those with hearing loss, whether or not they use a hearing aid.

However, most people are unaware that such equipment exists, let alone where to obtain it. Many of these items help those with hearing problems with using the telephone or listening to radio or TV.

It occurs to me that our hobby has provided many servicing volunteers for Talking Books for the Blind. It would help considerably if like-minded people could help spread the word that equipment is to hand, much of it at low cost (often VATfree), for those whose hearing is a few dB down. I have prepared a summary of gear and a list of suppliers who will provide free catalogues and I will gladly send it to anyone interested. I can be reached QTHR or via E-mail radius@euphony.net

E-mail radius@euphony.r Ray Burgess G3RXG Shipham, Somerset

Keep your letters coming to fill PWs postbag

Letters Received Via E-mail

A great deal of correspondence intended for 'letters' now arrives via E-mail, and although there's no problem in general, many correspondents are forgetting to provide their postal address. I have to remind readers that although we will not publish a full postal address (unless we are asked to do so), we require it if the letter is to be considered. So, please include your full postal address and callsign with your E-Mail. All letters intended for publication must be clearly marked 'For Publication'.

amateur radio rallies

Radio rallies are held throughout the UK. They're hard work to organise so visit one soon and support your clubs and organisations.

June 17

The Newbury & District ARS Boot Sale

 Contact:
 George Cook

 Tel:
 (01488) 682814

 Website:
 http://www.nadars.org.uk

Taking place at the Acland Hall & Recreation Field, Cold Ash, Newbury, from 0900 'till 1500, there will be a talk-in on S22. Why not go along and support the club?

June 17

The Leeds & District Amateur Radio Society Rally

Contact: J. Mortimer M0JAM **Tel:** (01943) 874650

This twice yearly traditional outdoor rally and car boot sale is being held at the Yarnbury Rugby Club, Brownberrie Lane, Horsforth, Leeds. There will be plenty of free parking for buyers.

June 24

The Bangor and District ARS Summer Rally

Contact: Norman GI3YMY
Tel: (0289) 146 6557
E-mail: normannewell@beeb.net club
Website: http://welcome.to/bdars

A good selection of radio and computer traders will be in attendance. at the Crawfordsburn Country Club, which is near Bangor, County Down at the Bangor ARS summer rally. Doors open at 12 noon and admission is £2. Look out for the Bring & Buy!

June 24 Longleat Rally

 Contact:
 Ron G4GTD

 Tel:
 (0117) 985 6253

 Website:
 http://www.longleatrally.co.uk

The 44th Longleat Rally will be held at Longleat House, near Warminster, Wilts, just off the A36 Bath - Salisbury road. All the usual major exhibitors and attractions including RSGB bookstall, RA stand - and Craft Fair. Entrance: Adults £3, Senior Citizens £2, Children £1. There will be a Car Boot Sale and Table-top Sale at 1000 for the whole day, with no advance booking. Sub-let or share

with a friend if you wish. Talk-in on 2m, S22.

July 1

The York Radio Rally

Contact: Pat Trask GODRF
Tel: (01904) 628036
E-mail: pat.trask@linone.net

Taking place at The Knavesmire Building, York Racecourse, York. Doors open 1030. There will be all the usual traders and free parking. Entrance fee £2, children under 14 free.

July 8

The Sussex Amateur Radio & Computer Fair

Tel: (01424) 428064

Celebrating its 21st Annual Rally the Sussex Amateur Radio & Computer Fair takes place at Brighton Racecourse with its refurbished facilitiest, the new owners have spent over 3 million pounds on improving the Grandstand and Exhibition halls, including the refreshment and bar areas. Doors open 1030-1600. There will be the usual traders and club stands, with the very popular Bring & Buy hall. Entrance fee is £2.50 with free on-site parking.

July 14

Cornish Annual Mobile Rally & Electronics Fair

Contact: G4LJY E-mail: g4ljy@qsl.net

The Cornish Radio Amateur Radio Club will be holding their 38th Annual Mobile Rally and Electronics fair on Saturday 14 July at Penair School Truro. Doors open at 10.30. Admission is £1.50. Many trade stands, demonstrations, Bring and Buy, refreshment and talk-in

July 15

The McMichael Amateur Radio Rally & Car Boot Sale

 Contact:
 Dave Chislett G4XDU

 Tel:
 (01628) 625720

 E-mail:
 g4xdu@amsat.org

 Website:
 http://come.to/mcmichaelrally

Taking place at a **new venue**, the Reading Rugby Football Club, Sonning Lane (B4446), just off the A4 near Reading, Berkshire. The key benefits for this larger site is a better parking and car boot area, better catering services, bigger fully licensed bar, easier access, first aid and a talk-in station on v.h.f. This will be Berkshire's Premier event with many traders present and the ever popular car boot sale makes it a good rally to visit. Various local clubs and organisations also have stands at the rally.

Practical Wireless, July 2001

amateur radio news

A comprehensive look at what's new in our hobby this month.

Stop Press!

New Portable Transceiver/Scanner

An innovative first for Kenwood Electronics is unveiled at the Dayton Amateur Radio show

isitors to the Dayton Amateur Radio, show in the USA were treated to the first viewing of Kenwood's new v.h.f./u.h.f portable transceiver to feature a built-in full range scanner. The sample shown at Dayton was a prototype of the American-market triple-band radio, which includes the 220MHz band (not available in Europe). The UK/European version doesn't cover this band for transmitting purposes and therefore will have a different model designation and will be called the **TH-F7E**.

Features of the TH-F7E include:

- Dual-band transmit on 144/430MHz.
- Receives 2 frequencies simultaneously, even on the same band.
- 0.1-1300MHz receive (on 'B' band).
- f.m., f.m.-w, f.m.-n, a.m. plus s s.b./c.w. receive.
- Internal VOX.
- Internal ferrite rod antenna for a.m. broadcast receive
- 1200/9600 packet ready (with external TNC).
- 434 memory channels
- 16-key pad plus multi-scroll key
 Lithium ian battany as standard
- Lithium-ion battery as standard (7.4V/1550mAh) giving 5W output.
- Special charging circuit for simultaneous charging/operating.
- MIL-STD 810 C/D/E for vibration, shock, humidity and light rain.
- Automatic Simplex Checker.
- Windows Memory Management software (free download from Kenwood Website).

Sunshine Bargain

Waters & Stanton Open Day

Sunday 13 May dawned bright with blue skies and rapidly the temperature reached 27°C - the perfect setting for Waters & Stanton's Open Day.

he annual W&S open day event was well attended with the usual queue of customers eagerly awaiting for the doors to open at 1000. Everybody made straight for the bargain stand in one section of the marquee where all kinds of items were on offer from Second World War equipment to end-of-line bargains and service department write-offs.

A free prize draw also took place, with visitors eagerly awaiting to see who'd won the VX-1R kindly donated by Yaesu and the various other prizes donated by Kenwood and Icom, all of who had stands within the marguee.

During the afternoon Mark Francis held his famous "Every Thing Must Go" auction where a wide range of products were sold off, and judging by the large number of boxes and bags being carried away, many visitors found bargains!

Waters & Stanton PLC, 22 Main Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 4QS Tel: (01702) 206835 FAX: (01702) 205843 E-mail: info@wsplc.com Website: www.wsplc.com





New from Nevada

Outdoor Balun

A new outdoor balun designed by American manufacturer Palstar is now available from Nevada of Portsmouth.

he Palstar B4000 4kW 4:1 balun is designed for outdoor use and may be used to terminate open-wire or balanced feeders before they come into the shack. It can be mounted remotely at the base of a mast or tower or just outside your shack window.

When used with an open-wire fed doublet antenna, the B4000 balun (with a suitable a.t.u.) gives coverage of all nine h.f. Amateur bands. The B4000 is available direct from Nevada for £79.95.

Nevada, Unit 1 Fitzherbert Spur, Farlington, Portsmouth PO6 1TT.

Tel: (02392) 313090. FAX: (02392) 313091. E-mail: info@nevada.co.uk

Kenwood Electronics (UK), Kenwood House, Dwight Road, Watford, Hertfordshire WD1 8EB Tel: (01923) 655284 FAX: (01923) 655297 Website: www. kenwood-electronics.co.uk

and first shipments are expected in the

autumn.

Essay Competition

Win a Trip to Turkey!

Do you fancy an all-expenses paid trip to Turkey? If so read on...

he Voice of Turkey has just announced its 2001 essay competition.. Six lucky people will be invited to Turkey for an all-expenses paid visit lasting 12 days.

To be in with a chance of winning you need to answer the following question by writing an essay. The question is: 'If you had the chance to come to Turkey, which areas of historic and touristic attraction would you prefer to see and why'?

Your essay must be no more than three pages long and should be sent to the address below before **July 15 2001**. So go on get writing!

English Section TRT, The Voice of Turkey PO Box 333, Yenisehir, Ankara 06443, Turkey



Supporting Stand

Does your multimeter need a helping hand to stay upright? If so this handy holder from Solid State Electronics will be just the job.

he TMH-2001 sturdy multimeter stand is now available from SSE of Southampton in two sizes. This easy-to-use stand features a heavy duty metal base, earthing static point and is fully adjustable allowing the user to find the best viewing angle for their meter.

With a price tag of £14.25 for the large stand (13x95x95mm) and £13.25 for the small version

(100x90x80mm) the TMH-2001 is easily affordable too. So say goodbye to propping your test meter up and give it full support today!

Solid State Electronics, 6 The Orchard. **Bassett Green Village** Southampton SO16 3NA Tel: (02380) 769598 FAX: (02380)8076 8315

ssejim.co.uk Website: www.ssejim.co.uk

E-mail:

Special Event Station

Setting Sail with OS4OSA

Between 5, 6, 7 and 8th July the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race will call at Antwerp and the club station of the Antwerp section (OSA) of the Royal Union Of Belgian Amateur Radio (UBA) will be operating under the special callsign OS4OSA.

he club station of Royal Union Of Belgian Amateur Radio, OS4OSA will be active from the 1-12th July. Activities are planned on short wave ('phone and c.w.) as well as on v.h.f ('phone). During the weekend of 7 July, the club station will operate from a location in the old port at a place called Entrepotkade.

One of the goals of the special event station is to get in touch with some of the larger sailing ships which participate in the Tall Ships Race, the only condition is that they should have an licensed Amateur on board. Contacts with the world-wide community of Radio Amateurs will be actively sought and activities are planned

around 14.165 and 18.165MHz. A special QSL post card will be sent to confirm each QSO and s.w.l. report.

MARCONICALLING

Get On-Line

Marconi Memories at Your Fingertips

If you're interested in Marconi's achievements and the way he and his company helped shape the world of Amateur Radio, point your computer mouse this way!

he United Kingdom's E-minister Patricia **Hewitt** launched a new on-line Marconi



museum this month. The website museum

depicts Guglielmo Marconi's achievements and has been launched to coincide with the 100 year anniversary of the world's first transatalantic wireless transmission.

The website www.marconicalling.com features 10 000 web pages containing 500 pieces of ephemera, 426 photographs, 33 sound clips and 10 film clips. This comprehensive site spans Marconi's achievements dating from 1901 and

helps to define the history of

communication.

Original film and sound clips include Winston Churchill's 'Finest Hour Speech', Gandhi's 'Spiritual Speech to the World' and the first Royal Christmas Day broadcast by King George V in 1932. This interactive site will appeal to Radio Amateurs, historians, school children, students and reasearches alike.

amateur radio CUDS

Keep up-to-date with your local club's activities and meet new friends by joining in!

EDGWARE

Edgware & District Radio Society

Bill GOSTR QTHR/David G5HY Contact (02089) 581255 evenings/(01923) 655284 days/(02089) 549180 evenings.

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month and commence at 2000 hours. All meetings are held at The Watling Community Centre, 145 Orange Hill Road, Burnt Oak, Edgware, Middlesex. Why not go along to the next couple of meetings? 12 July: Talk by lan G4IUZ on Control System and for members only on

26 July: Club trip out.

KENT

North Kent Radio Society Contact: Dave G4YIB Tel: (01322) 330830 (01322) 334904 Fax: E-mail: dave@quartslab.com

The north Kent radio society meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Bexleyheath Pop In Parlour, Graham Road (opposite Asda) at 2000 hours. For more details E-mail Dave G4YIB.

MIDLANDS

ARCON

Contact: Trevor Hackworth GOIXR 0115-921 2967 Tel: Website: www.arcon99.fsnet.co.uk

The Amateur Radio club of Nottingham meet at the Haywood Road Community Center, on Haywood Road, Mapperley, Nottingham every Thursday evening at 1930 hours. Their forthcoming programme of events include: 21 June: RDF contest No 3; 28th: "What is a balun and where do you put it?" by **Ron G4XOU**. All visitors welcome, so come and join in the fun.

WILTSHIRE

Swindon Amateur Radio Club Den Forrest M0ACM Contact: www.sdarc.org.uk

The Swindon club meet every Thursday at 1900 hours at the Eastcott Community Centre, Savenake, Swindon. The Natter Nights are short-hand for informal members

gatherings where discussions take place about radio related matters, where equipment trials and tests are carried out on request and where Morse practice and v.h.f/u.h.f. operations are provided for.



In the current programme, some of the Natter Nights are dedicated to preparing equipment and personnel for the contests which the club enters under G3FEC or G8SRC.

Note that due to holidays, no formal talks are organsised for the month of August although the club is open for Natter Nights throughout the month.

TROWBRIDGE & DISTRICT

Amateur Radio Club

Contact: The Secretary (01225) 864698. Tel: Website:

www.gertdarc.fsnet.co.uk Main meetings commence at 2000 hours unless otherwise stated. All main meetings may be subject to change depending on availability of guest speaker please watch for updates via the club web site, GB2RS

or on the club 144MHz net on Monday evenings between 1930 and 2000 hours. The club meets at the Southwick Village Hall Southwick and visitors are always welcome to all meetings. Why not going along

to these forthcoming meetings? **20 June**: Natter night; **24th**: GB4LR Longleat Rally Talk-in & working party and 4 July: 144MHz Direction Finding Event starting 1930 from club venue

Keep those details coming in!



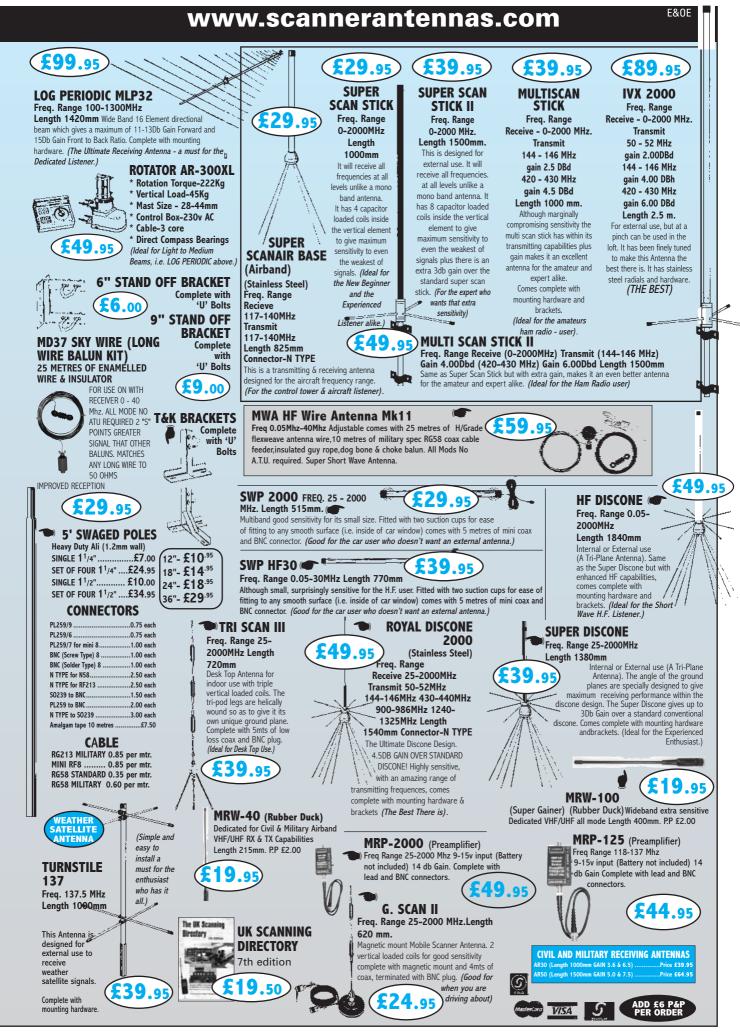
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| feed, S.W.R. 2:1 and below over whole frequency range professional | 5.0, 7.9 & 3.0 dBd Gain (7/8, 3 x 5/8, 1/4 | MD020 20mt £39 . £39 . MD040 40mt £44 . | MD37 SKY WIRE (Receives 0-40Mhz)£29.95 | MD-24 (2 Way Internal Duplexer) |
| quality (length 1420mm) £99 95 | wave) (Length 60") (SO239 fitting)£39.95 | MDO80 80mt£49 ^{.95} | Complete with 25 mts of enamelled | (1.3-35 Mhz 500w) (50-225 Mhz 300w) (350-540 Mhz 300w) insert |
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| AMPRO 10 mt£1695 | 2 metre (Length 52")£24.95 | 2 metre 8 Element (Boom 126") (Gain 11.5dBd)£84.95 | Adjustable to any length up to 60 | Mhz 300w) (350-540 Mhz 300w) |
| (Length 7' approx) AMPRO 12 mt£16 95 | 4 metre (adjustable top section)£36.95 | 70 cms 13 Element (Boom 83") (Gain 12.5dBd)£54.95 | metres. Comes complete with 50 mts of enamelled wire, guy rope, | insert loss 0.2dBd£2495 CS201 Two way antenna switch, |
| (Length 7' approx) | 6 metre (adjustable top | YAGI BEAMS | dog bones & connecting box. | frequency range 0-1Ghz, 2.5 Kw Power Handling SO239 fittings £18.95 |
| AMPRO 15 mt£16 ⁹⁵ (Length 7' approx) | section) £46 .95 | All fittings Stainless Steel | MOUNTING HARDWARE ALL GALVANISED | CS201-N same spec as CS201 "N- |
| AMPRO 17 mt£ 16 95 (Length 7' approx) | VERTICAL FIBRE GLASS (GRP) BASE ANTENNAS | 2 metre 4 Element (Boom 48") (Gain 7dBd)£19.95 | 6" Stand Off Bracket | type" fitting £28 .95 Tri-plexer 1.6-60Mhz (800w) 110- |
| AMPRO 20 mt£16 95 | | 2 metre 5 Element (Boom 63") (Gain 10dBd)£34.95 | (complete with U Bolts)£6.00 9" Stand off bracket | 170Mhz (800w) 300-950Mhz (500w) |
| (Length 7' approx) AMPRO 30 mt£16 95 | SQ & BM Range VX 6 Co-linear:- Specially Designed Tubular Vertical Coils individually tuned to within | 2 metre 8 Element | (complete with U Bolts)£9.00 | SO239 fitting£49.95 4 way antenna switch |
| (Length 7' approx) AMPRO 40 mt£16 95 | 0.05pf (maximum power 100watts) | (Boom 125") (Gain 12dBd)£44.95 2 metre 11 Element | 12" T & K Bracket (complete with U Bolts)£11.95 | 0-500Mhz £29 95 |
| (Length 7' approx) | BM100 Dual-Bander£29 .95 (2 mts 3dBd) (70cms 6dBd) | (Boom 156") (Gain 13dBd)£65.95 4 metre 3 Element | 18" T & K Bracket (complete with U Bolts)£17.95 | ANTENNA ROTATORS |
| AMPRO 80 mt£19 s5 (Length 7' approx) | (Length 39") SQBM100*Dual-Bander£39.95 | (Boom 45") (Gain 8dBd)£39.95 | 24" T & K Bracket | AR-300XL Light duty UHF\ VHF£49.95 |
| AMPRO 160 mt£49 95 | (2 mts 3dBd) (70cms 6dBd) | 4 metre 5 Element (Boom 128") (Gain 10dBd)£54.95 | (complete with U Bolts)£19.95 3-Way Pole Spider for Guy Rope/ | YS-130 Medium duty VHF£79.95 RC5-1 Heavy duty HF£349.95 |
| (Length 7' approx) AMPRO MB5 Multi band | (Length 39") BM200 Dual-Bander £39.95 | 6 metre 3 Element (Boom 72") (Gain 7.5dBd)£49.95 | wire£3.95 4-Way Pole Spider for Guy Rope/ | RG5-3 Heavy Duty HF inc Pre Set |
| 10/15/20/40/80 can use 4 Bands at one time (length 100") £69 95 | (2 mts 4.5dBd) (70cms 7.5dBd) | 6 metre 5 Element | wire£4.95 | AR26 Alignment Bearing for the |
| DUAL BAND MOBILE | (Length 62") SQBM200* Dual-Bander£49.95 | (Boom 142") (Gain 9.5dBd)£69.95 70 cms 13 Element | 1½" Mast Sleeve/Joiner£8.95 2" Mast Sleeve/Joiner£9.95 | AR300XL£18.95 RC26 Alignment Bearing for |
| ANTENNAS | (2 mts 4.5dBd) (70cms 7.5dBd) (Length 62") | (Boom 76") (Gain 12.5dBd) £39 95 | Solid copper earth rod 4'£995 | RC5-1/3 £49 .95 |
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| MR 700 2 Metre 70 cms (% & % wave) (Length 20") (% fitting)£6 99 | (Length100") SQBM500 Dual - Bander | (Boom 38") (Gain 9.5dBd)£35.95 | 1½"x 5' Heavy Duty Aluminium Swaged Poles (set of 4)£29.95 | MOUNTS |
| MR 700 2 Metre 70 cms (¼ & % | Super Gainer£59.95 | 2 metre 7 Element (Boom 60") (Gain 12dBd)£45.95 | 2" x 5' Heavy Duty Aluminium | Turbo mag mount |
| wave) (Length 20") (S0239 fitting) £9 99 | (2 mts 6.8dBd) (70cms 9.2dBd) (Length100") | 2 metre 12 Element (Boom 126") (Gain 14dBd)£65.95 | Swaged Poles (set of 4)£4995 | (7") % or S0239£14.95 |
| MR 777 2 Metre 70 cms 2.8 & 4.8 dBd Gain (5/8 & 2x5/8 wave) | BM1000 Tri-Bander£59.95 (2 mts 6.2dBd) (6 mts 3.0dBd) | 70 cms 7 Element (Boom 28") (Gain 11.5dBd)£24.95 | REINFORCED HARDENED FIBRE GLASS MASTS (GRP) | (3x5") ¾ or SO239 £39 .95 |
| (Length 60") (3/8 fitting)£16 95 | (70cms 8.4dBd) (Length 100") SQBM1000* Tri-Bander£69.95 | 70 cms 12 Element | 1½" Diameter 2 metres long£16.00 | Stainless Steel Heavy Duty Hatch Back Mount with 4 mts of |
| MR 777 2 Metre 70 cms 2.8 & 4.8 dBd Gain (5/8 & 2x5/8 wave) | (2 mts 6.2dBd) (6 mts 3.0dBd) | (Boom 48") (Gain 14dBd)£44.95 HALO LOOPS | 1¾" Diameter 2 metres long£20.00 2" Diameter 2 metres long£24.00 | coax and pl259 plug (% or SO239 fully adjustable with turn |
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| fitting) £3 99 MR 214 2 Metre ¼ wave (SO239 | BM60 % Wave, Length 62", 5.5dBd Gain£49.95 | dBd Gain, Length 39" £39 .95 MSS-2 Freg RX 0-2000 Mhz, TX 2 | COAX | The Following Supplied in 50 metre lengths |
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| MR 775 70 cms % wave 3.0 dBd Gain (Length 19") (SO239 | BM33 2 X 5/8 wave Length 39" 7.0 | Length 100"£89.95 | mini 8 per mt70p RG213 best quality | wire £9.5 Flex Weave £27.5 |
| fitting) £14 95 | dBd Gain£34.95 BM45 3 X 5/8 wave Length 62" 8.5 | G5RV Wire Antenna (10-40/80 metre) | military spec per mt85p | Clear PVC Coated Flex |
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| MR 776 70 cms % over ≼ wave 6.0 dBd Gain (Length 27") (SO239 | dBd Gain £69 .95 | Standard £22.95 £19.95 | 10/11 METRE VERTICALS | INDUCTORS |
| fitting)£18 ** MR 776 70 cms % over % wave 6.0 | TRI-BANDER BEAM 5dBd all bands | Hard Drawn £24 ⁹⁵ £21 ⁹⁵ Flex Weave £32 ⁹⁵ £27 ⁹⁵ | G.A.P.12 1/2 wave alumimum | Convert your g5rv half size into a full size with only a very small |
| dBd Gain (Length 27") (%fitting)£16 95 | TBB3 3 Element 6mts, 2mtr, 70cms, Boom Length 1.1mts, Longest | PVC Coated Flex Weave £37.95 £32.95 | (length 18' approx)£16.95 G.A.P.58 5/8 wave aluminium | increase in size. Ideal for the small |
| MR 444 4 Metre loaded 1/4 wave (Length 24") (% fitting)£12 95 | Element 3mts, 5.00 dBd Gain£65.95 | TS1 Stainless Steel Tension | (length 21' approx)£19.95 | garden£21.95 |
| MR 444 4 Metre loaded ¼ wave (Length 24") (SO239 fitting)£15 95 | HB9CV 2 ELEMENT | POWER SUPPLIES | BALUNS MB-1 1:1 Balun£23.95 | TRAPS |
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| (Length 56") (% fitting) £13 95 MR 644 6 Metre loaded ¼ wave | 70cms (Boom 12") £15 .95 2 metre (Boom 20") £19 .95 | Dual Meter & Adjustable Voltage 5- 15v £99 ⁹⁵ | MB-6 6:1 Balun£2395 | 20 metre trap 400W£21.95 |
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MLP32

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 - Receive freq: 100-1300MHz
- ★ Forward Gain: 11-13dB
- ★ Forward to Back ratio: 15dB
- ★ Boom Length: 1.4mts
- ★ Elements: 16
- ★ Longest Element: 1.44mts
- ★ Connector: 'N Type'
- ★ Mast up to 2"
- ★ Power: 500 watts
- ★ VSWR: <2.0:1
- ★ Weight: 3 Kg

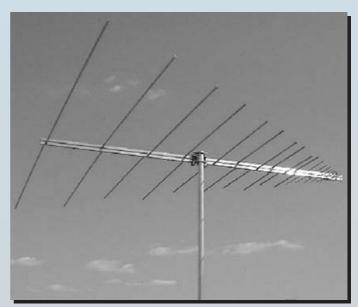


MLP62

SPECIFICATION

- ★ Frequency Range: Transmit freq: 50-1300MHz (6/4/2/70/23cm)
 - Receive freq: 50-1300MHz
- ★ Forward Gain: 10-12dB
- ★ Forward to Back ratio: 15dB
- ★ Boom Length: 2mts
- ★ Elements: 20
- ★ Longest Element: 3mts
- ★ Connector 'N Type'
- ★ Mast up to 2"
- ★ Power: 500 watts
- ★ VSWR: <2.0:1
- ★ Weight: 5 Kg





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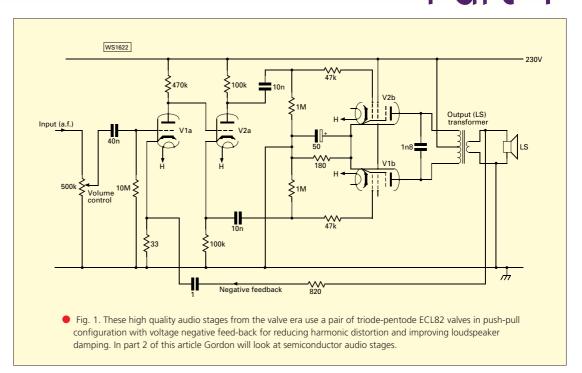






THE AUDIO STAGES Part 1

Gordon King
G4VFV
presents the
first part of
his look at
audio stages.
Read on to
find out what
it's all about...



he signal which I have looked at in previous columns, from the antenna to the detector, has now been processed to the stage where it has virtually become audible. Well, audible, that is, in the way that it would be strong enough to be heard weakly in a pair of high impedance headphones connected across the output of the detector. The signal certainly wouldn't be man enough, though, to pump adequate audio power into a loudspeaker for armchair listening!

What has to be done next is to raise this small audio signal to a significantly stronger signal with some power punch behind it for driving a loudspeaker. So, let's get some idea of what this means.

As an example let's say that the signal at the output of the detector from a strong transmission is 2V (it probably wouldn't be as much as this) and that the detector load (R) is $10,000\Omega,$ then, by using the simple expression $V^2/R=W,$ we find that the power works out to a mere 0.004W, or $400\mu W,$ $(2^2/10,000\Omega=0.004W).$

To drive a low impedance loudspeaker for a reasonable sound intensity, something in the region of 3W would be needed. By simple rearrangement of the above expression to (WxR) $^{0.5}$ =V, it can easily be calculated that the input to a 4Ω loudspeaker, not an uncommon value, would need to be almost 3.5V [(3x4) $^{0.5}$ =3.46)] to produce 3W. Audio power at this and higher levels is provided by a power amplifier, driven by a preamplifier.

Remarkable Evolution

Relatively recent years have seen a remarkable evolution not only in the design but also in the construction of audio amplifiers. It was only about three decades ago when valve audio stages were all the rage and indeed, a contribution from my pen would be singularly incomplete without reference to such outdated (?) technology! In my Radio and Audio Servicing Handbook (Newnes-Butterworths) first published in 1965, I explored the audio stages of a then current upmarket receiver using a pair of

ECL82 triode-pentode valves.

The circuit, whose relevant aspects are revealed in Fig. 1, makes a good starting point for looking at audio stages both in this and in the next instalment of the Looking at... series. The two valves, drawn as two triodes and two pentodes, provide both the pre- and power-amplifier requirements, with a phasesplitter thrown in for driving the push-pull pentodes. The first triode V1A serves as the preamplifier, receiving at its grid the input audio signal at a level selected by the setting of the volume control.

An amplified replica of the signal appearing across the $470 \mathrm{k}\Omega$ anode load resistor is directly coupled to the grid of the second triode V2A, which serves as the phase-splitter. The triode then couples to the control grid of each of the two power pentodes, V1B and V2B, from corresponding $100 \mathrm{k}\Omega$ loads in its anode and cathode circuits.

Although having virtually unity gain, the primary task of this triode is to feed the signal to the control grids of the pentodes in 180° phase opposition, such



that the grid of one pentode swings positive while that of the partner pentode swings negative, providing the pushpull action!

Pentode Biased

The pentodes are biased by the volts drop across the common 180Ω cathode resistor, which makes the cathodes more positive than the control grids or, in other words, the grids more negative than the cathodes by an amount suitable for the correct biasing. Amplifiers designed for high audio quality commonly adopt class A biasing, where the anode current flows at all times. Alternatively class AB1 biasing, where the anode current in one of the valves flows for appreciably more than a signal half cycle, but less than a complete cycle

could be used.

The $50\mu F$ electrolytic capacitor in parallel with the cathode resistor inhibits current negative feedback (n.f.b.), thereby avoiding both

an undesirable increase in anode impedance and a reduction in gain. However, the circuit does adopt voltage n.f.b. introduced from the secondary of the output transformer back to the cathode of V1A, via the 820Ω resistor and 1µF capacitor. Voltage n.f.b. 'cleans up' the signal by cancelling harmonic distortion while enhancing the 'damping' across the loudspeaker, thereby minimising transient (overshoot) distortion.

Output Transformer

The amplified signal swinging across the primary winding of

the output (LS) transformer, between the two high impedance anodes, is inductively coupled to the secondary winding and hence to the loudspeaker. The step-down

turns ratio of the transformer translates the high impedance voltage at the primary to low impedance current at the secondary, thereby providing the necessary current drive for the loudspeaker.

Let's say the input to a 4Ω loudspeaker is 3W, if so then by using the simple expression I=(W/R)0.5, we'll find that the current (I) is close to 0.86A, or $860 mA \ [(3/4)^{0.5} = 0.86].$ At the start of the column I described that the input for a 4Ω loudspeaker to yield 3W was 3.46V, so now we have values for all four parameters, voltage (V=3.46), current (I=0.86A), (W=3) and resistance (R=4W) which we can toy with!

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So this may seem old hat, but we had to start somewhere! In Part 2 I shall be looking at less vintage semiconductor technology. You'll remember that at the start I did place a query against outdated technology!

However, would you believe, hot thermionic valves are certainly not extinct. Indeed, they are revered by many an audiophile, including yours truly; they are still very active in recording studios and they are also still found in some capacitor microphones and in certain Amateur Radio kit. They are still being manufactured in small quantities.

Perhaps I shall have to get some of my early radio books republished! Watch these pages.

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| Traps | [83 | (a pair | £25.00 | P&P | £4 |
| Traps | <u> </u> | (a pair | £25.00 | P&P | £4 |
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| Traps | , <u>H</u> | (a pair | £25.00 | P&P | £4 |
| | Traps Traps Traps Traps | Traps Traps Traps Traps | Traps (a pair) | ### ### ############################## | ### ################################## |

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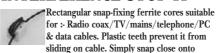
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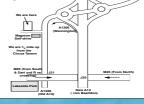
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190mm ● Additional sockets at front & rear O SSP £99.95.



INTRO PRICE

Radio Basics

This time Rob Mannion G3XFD provides some more ideas on how to use moving coil meters, and with the help of Tex Swann G1TEX gives you a little maths homework too!

ne more with the naths

• Fig. 1: A high quality 3.5 inch (88m) diameter moving coil meter unit. This

example is fixed in place using a threaded ring collar. Extremely well made (and

expensive to buy in 1970 when new!) this instrument has many uses (see text).

've been extremely busy in my new workshop in the last few months, busily preparing future projects for the Radio Basics (RB) column, including some using moving coil meter movements. However, I've discovered that despite the fact there are plenty of surplus meters available for us to buy, getting suitable instruments new (and to a known standard) has proved difficult.

Fortunately though, I've been able to locate a source of good quality meters (see the RB Information Board) which although not new, will prove very useful to anyone who does not attend rallies or shows. So, there's no excuse not to join in and have a go!

The meters available from the source I've mentioned on the RB information board are 1mA full scale deflection (f.s.d.) and this is a very convenient for our purposes and used to be almost an industry standard. And although the meter shown, Fig. 1, is a different physical shape, it is a 1mA f.s.d. type.

On the left of the meter's dial (below the pointer, which is resting at zero) you'll see the information that it's a moving coil instrument. To the right on the dial the manufacture has marked that it's a sealed 'Tropical' unit, together with the important information on the f.s.d. and the internal resistance of the instrument.

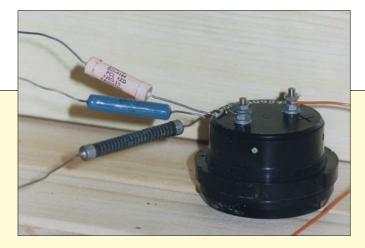
To use the meter to indicate a voltage reading we have to incorporate a series dropping resistor circuit to suit the range needed. Of course, the meter only indicates the current flowing

in the circuitry - but using Ohm's law we can work out what the voltage will be and calibrate the meter (either directly on the meter's scale or by using an external chart). Additionally, if a known voltage source is applied - the same circuitry can be used to measure an unknown resistance - turning the instrument into an ohm-

The photograph, Fig. 2, shows a meter being prepared for use as a voltmeter. The three high quality wirewound resistors have been chosen because they are all well within 5% of the marked values. This is an important factor to remember...but also bear in mind you cannot expect laboratory standards with a simple home-made meter!

A simple voltmeter can be made without switching, the only requirement is to connect the source to be measured to the meter circuitry. This can be done with wander leads and plugs and sockets. However, you can even build a meter into a receiver if you wish, so that it's possible to monitor battery voltage, current consumption, and even (when you've more experience) also use the same instrument to indicate signal strength. They are extremely versatile!

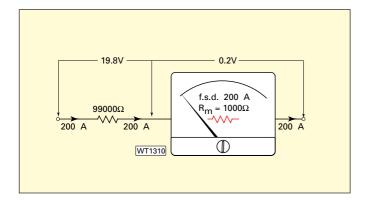
Low current reading moving coil meters - as mentioned last month, can also be used to measure very much higher currents than their true f.s.d. by using a shunt. The photograph, Fig. 3, shows a neat little trick I've used in the past when a low resistance shunt is required...employing an old coil. The coil shown actually provided just the right resistance to enable me to measure 100mA on a 500µA f.s.d. meter.



- Fig. 2: A meter being prepared for use as a voltmeter. Three high quality wirewound resistors have been chosen to obtain the highest accuracy possible (see text).
- Fig. 3: A neat little trick used by G3XFD when a low resistance shunt is required...employing an old coil. The coil shown enabled current flows up to 100mA on a 500µA f s.d. meter (see text).







 $R_{S} = 1\Omega$ 99mA
99mA

100mA
1mA

WT1309 $R_{M} = 100\Omega$ 1mA
100mA

• Fig. 4: If you wish to 20V on this meter movement the total resistance will be 20 (V) x 5000 (Ω /V ohms per volt) = 100,000 Ω (100k Ω). As the meter itself has a resistance of 1000 Ω (1k Ω) the series resistance will need to be 99000 Ω . However, in practical terms a selected (for best possible accuracy) standard 100k Ω resistor should suit (Taken from Modifying Moving Coil Meters - PW January 2000 - see text).

 Fig. 5: If you require to measure up to 100mA (millamperes) and your basic meter movement has a f.s.d. of 1mA with an internal resistance of 100Ω, the circuit would be as shown here. (Taken from Modifying Moving Coil Meters - PW January 2000 - see text).

Time For Maths!

Many people are frightened of mathematics and I was one of them until I took an Open University Maths Foundation course over 25 years ago. The course, and the preparatory work provided by the National Extension College (NEC) - The charitable forerunner of the OU*- was very helpful drove my fear of maths away but I know many of you don't enjoy the subject.

So, to help encourage you reluctant RB mathematicians **Tex Swann G1TEX** our Technical Projects Subs-Editor has prepared some extremely simple examples, in the keystroke **Tables 1, 2** and **3**, demonstrating how you can - by using a cheap scientific calculator - work out what's required.

Please don't be ashamed if you can't work things out in your head - I'd rather you use a calculator and be successful and enjoy the process than get stuck trying to remember how to do it without help! Treat the calculator as yet another tool on your workbench.

*If you'd like to improve your maths - and enjoy using your knowledge to help you with your radio, write to me and I'll give you the details of the NEC in Cambridge. Their correspondence courses are truly excellent, with superb tutorial back-up.

Practical Help

When it comes to looking for more practical help and guidance, *PW* author **Walter Farrar G3ESP** wrote an interesting article on the subject of meters - which was published in the January 2000 issue (See Information Board).

In fact, the circuits shown

in **Figs. 4** and **5** were originally published in that article. And, if you don't have the January 2000 issue of *PW*, I've included details of how you can get a free photocopy in the information board

So, once you've got a suitable meter, and you're armed with the RB information - plus the photocopy of G3ESP's article you should be ready to have a go making simple test meters. Hopefully you'll also be on the look-out for the many bargain moving coil meter units on sale at rallies and shows. But let's hope we don't end up arguing who saw it on sale first as I'm a whimp really and will probably back down to enable you to buy it! Cheerio until next time.

ρw

Find the reistance using the formula

$$R = \frac{V}{I} = \left(\frac{\text{Volts}}{\text{Amps}}\right)$$
$$= \frac{20V}{0.372} = \frac{20}{0.0003}$$

20+.0002= 100000 -1000= 99000

 Tables 1, 2 and 3: Showing mathematics and associated keystrokes (using a scientific calculator) required. Tex G1TEX and Rob G3XFD both encourage you reluctant mathematicians to have a go for yourself! Find the f.s.d. (V) of the meter alone using the formula

 $V = IR \quad (amps \times ohms)$ $= 0.001 \times 100$

0.001×100= 0.1

Now find the resistance that allows the other 99mA to flow when the voltage is 0.1V (100mV) using the formula

$$R = \frac{V}{I} = \left(\frac{Volts}{Amps}\right)$$

$$= \frac{100\text{mV}}{99\text{mA}} = \frac{0.1}{0.099}$$

0.1÷.099= 1.01010

Information Board

Moving coil meters: After a great deal of searching, Robin Sykes G3NFV of Sycom has unearthed a small supply of surplus (Bakelite cased, 1mA f.s.d. (not fitted with shunts or internal resistors) large clear scale calibrated in 75, 300 and 1000V d.c.) milliampere-meters requiring a 3.5 inch (88mm) mounting hole. These are available on a first-come-first-served basis for £3.50 each plus postage. Telephone Robin on (01372) 372587 or see the Sycom advert in this issue.

Extra information: If you don't have access to the PW article written by Walter Farrar G3ESP (published in the January 2000 issue) and you wish to experiment further with moving coils meters please send an s.a.e. (1st class 27p stamp please) and a request stating Radio Basics Meter Information to: Rob Mannion G3XFD, Editor Practical Wireless (Radio Basics), Arrowsmith Court, Station Approach, **Broadstone, Dorset BH18** 8PW. In return you will receive a photocopy of G3ESP's original single page article. Incidentally, the number of requests will also give me a good idea of the level of interest on this topic so I can plan for future articles in the RB series.

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On Parade...

13 28. 123.

The President Lincoln 28MHz Multi-mode Transceiver

Keen 10 metre operator Jon Wheeler GOIUE was surprised when he was asked to review the President Lincoln 28MHz transceiver on behalf of *PW*. However he said "I didn't need to be asked twice"!

Heading photograph:
 When he was 'on parade'
 with the President Lincoln
 transceiver Jon Wheeler
 GOIUE enjoyed the
 experience so much he
 bought the rig!

for Amateur
use. The
original
prohibition
dated back to
the late 1980s,
when a
restriction order
was placed on such

ow that single

transceivers have

been de-regulated

and are legal

for use in the United

Lincoln is one of

those available

Kingdom, the President

band 28MHz (10 metre)

equipment which also included the prohibition of converting 27MHz multi-mode radios to the 28MHz Amateur band.

Regretably, this latter piece of needless

legislation has never been rescinded and unfortunately remains in force, despite the efforts of many Amateurs - including the Editor of *PW* who has frequently raised this point in his Keylines editorials. However, I'll get off of my own soapbox and on to the review now!

The Radio

The President Lincoln is a 28MHz multi-mode transceiver, capable of transmitting on the c.w., a.m., s.s.b. (l.s.b. and u.s.b.) and narrow band f.m. (n.b.f.m.) modes between 28 and 29.7MHz. The radio is clearly aimed at the world-wide CB market,

however, in this country it's supplied to cover only the 10 metre Amateur band allocation.

The manufacturer's specification states a transmitter output of 10W on a.m., c.w. and n.b.f.m. and 21W on s.s.b. It comes complete with a noise cancelling microphone with up/down frequency selection. Also included are a mobile mounting bracket, power lead, and detailed multilingual instruction book which includes a circuit diagram. The heading picture and the photographs in **Fig. 1**, and **2** clearly demonstrate how neat the transceiver is inside.

Front Panel

Let's look at the all important front panel. There are a host of functions available to the user and all are accessible from the front panel either by means of several rotary knobs or by simply pushing in/out buttons. A clear, but not overly large, orange tinted background liquid crystal display shows frequency, channel number, band display (indicated as

(indicated as four banks of 50 channels and displayed as blocks A, B, C and D). Also available on the main display are an standing

wave ratio $(\mathbf{s.w.r.})$ function indicator and modulation meter.

Away from the display is the rotary mode control allowing the user to switch easily between the c.w., a.m., s.s.b. and n.b.f.m. modes. An RIT function allows the user to adjust the receive frequency ±2.3kHz whilst the transmit frequency remains unaffected. This is particularly useful when in a QSO with a station whose transmit frequency doesn't quite match your own.

Power output can be varied between 1 and 10W in c.w., a.m. and n.b.f.m. modes only. Useful perhaps when driving a low input power amplifier.

There are the universally recognised volume and squelch rotary controls. The squelch has a useful function referred in the handbook as auto squelch, this basically sets the squelch at a preset level and would I suppose have its uses in a mobile scenario on either the a.m. or n.b.f.m. modes.

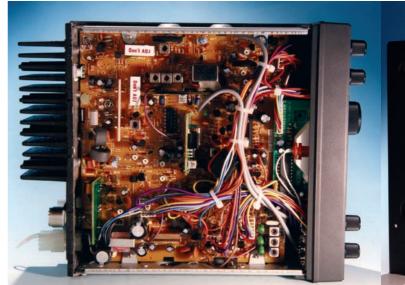


Fig. 1: Inside top view of the transceiver, showing efficient heat-sinking arrangements, the neat layout and warnings not to tamper!





Other useful facilities include a scan function that scans through all 50 channels of the selected block. Also available is a **Dim** button that allows the user to reduce the brightness of the display (I preferred it in the brighter position myself).

There's also a **Roger Beep** for those that want it. And there's a facility I found particularly useful: the frequency lock function. This allows you to lock the radio to a frequency of your choice — especially useful during this review when my five year-old daughter **Emma** decided to venture in to my shack and spin the v.f.o. knob to see what it did (luckily nothing as the frequency had been locked).

Public Address (PA) and **Noise Blanker** (NB) facilities are also available and 10kHz incremental steps can be selected via the up/down channel buttons. This made changing frequency while operating on n.b.f.m. much easier.

The most useful function for me was the v.f.o., allowing fine-tuning down to 100Hz, something not available on the Albrecht AE485s reviewed in PW a few months ago. This made operation (particularly mobile operation) so much easier.

There are no memory or repeater shift functions on the radio. This is disappointing because you can neither store your favourite channels/frequencies nor can you easily work through any of the 28MHz repeaters often heard so strongly when band is open. Whizzing the v.f.o. backwards and forwards between the input and output of a repeater is a tedious task and one you'll get fed up with in a hurry!



Rear Panel

The rear panel sports the usual SO239 connector, and a two-pin power lead connection. There's also a very unusual 9-pin accessory connector, which can be seen in **Fig. 3**.

Being used to jack plugs it came as a surprise to be confronted with a 9-pin block that requires wires to be inserted across pins to obtain functions such a extension speaker, Morse key and PA speaker

connections. Although unusual it does work and is something I would get used to with time. Mounted on the underside panel is a 4W speaker. In my shack it was perfectly adequate, however, the addition of an extension speaker in a noisy (perhaps mobile) environment would be an advantage.

On The Air

For my on-the-air tests I connected the radio to my G5RV antenna, via my antenna tuner but with it switched to by-pass as the G5RV matched so well, and switched on just after it had got dark one April evening and tuned across 28MHz. The band seemed dead until I tuned up to the n.b.f.m. section and found two local stations **Kevin Romang G4SKN** and **Martin Yallop G4YNT**, both in the Corsham area of Wiltshire, in QSO together on 29.550MHz.

I quickly took the opportunity to call in and spent the next half an hour having an enjoyable QSO with Kevin and Martin on a seldom used part of the 10 metre band (for local QSOs that is). I received favourable reports from both stations although it was implied that my audio level was "a little down" it was in no way a major criticism. On reflection it became apparent that I hadn't been speaking directly in to the microphone and the lack of audio was down to me, not the radio!

The following evening, again connected to my G5RV, I replied to a CQ from **Rui CT3GV** in Portugal on 28.508MHz s.s.b. He replied first time and gave me a 5–9 report. I was particularly impressed with the receive audio, which was very clear and in no way tinny.

More QSOs were made on the evening of the 26 April with **LW9EOC** in Argentina, and

PY1NEZ in Brazil. Both stations were worked on s.s.b. Incidentally...both stations were surprised that I was only running about 20W and my report on both occasions was 5 by 5.

A trip up to 29.600MHz netted **Juan EA8AGQ**, in Las Palmas Gran Canaria, who amazingly gave me 5 & 9 plus on n.b.f.m. Although he was running 40W, I could only give him 5 by 7 in return. And at this point I quickly set up my Yaesu FT-920, fitted a change-over switch between both radios and connected my 2-element beam.

To be honest there wasn't a vast difference in what I heard between the two rigs. Yes, the FT-920 **was better**, it has better receive options (DSP, Noise Reduction, etc.) but the Lincoln held its own and marginal signals on the '920 were still copyable on the President Lincoln – so there's no doubt the review model had a pretty good receiver.

Product

The President Lincoln 28MHz multi-mode Transceiver

Pros & Cons

Pros: Simple and easy to use, has v.f.o. tuning to 100Hz, sensitive receiver, good transmit audio reports, built in VSWR meter, frequency change possible from the microphone and a comprehensive manual that includes a circuit.

Cons: Low output power, no jack plugs for extension speaker/Morse key, no repeater shift, no memory facility and bulky size in a mobile set-up.

Summary

All in all, it was a pleasure to test this monoband 28MHz transceiver. The President Lincoln gets a definite thumbs up from me, so much so that I've decided to buy the review model. What more can I say - other than "See you on ten metres"?

Price

Normally £225 plus £9 p&p, however Nevada have arranged a special offer price of £199 for PW readers (plus p&p) for the on sale period of the July issue.

Thanks

Thanks to Nevada of Unit 1, Fitzherbert Spur, Farlington, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO6 1TT. Tel: 023-9231 3090, FAX 023-9231 3091, for the loan of the review model.

 Fig. 2: Inside view of the underside of the chassis.
 When in use the loudspeaker is mounted underneath the unit.



 Fig. 3: The rear panel complete with unusual 9-pin socket (see text for comments).

Going Mobile

The next day was actually a sunny one and it luckily coincided with a day off work for mobile tests. For these I looked out an old K40 CB antenna (shortened for 28MHz operation) fitted it on the roof of the car and installed the Lincoln on the passenger seat.

At this point I must confess that I'd invited Kevin G4SKN along with me as he had a digital camera and if any

photos of this part of the review are shown they are down to him. Thanks Kevin!

The President Lincoln is a little bulky compared to some mobile rigs on the market today. It's roughly the same size as the Icom IC-706 but has no remote head facility. For the purpose of the review I parked the car in a lay-by on high ground near Corsham, and because it was warm and sunny I placed the radio on the roof of the car next to the K40 antenna and called CQ on s.s.b..

At first there were no responses and although the band was open, conditions weren't that good. But a few minutes later we were called by **Yura US5EAU**, in Dnepr Ukraine. Yura gave me a 5 by 6 report and I replied with the same.

At this point I was happy with that and was preparing to put the transceiver back inside the car when we thought we heard a JA (Japanese) station. Kevin said give him a call.

I called "QRZ from G0IUE Mobile" and a reply of "the mobile station again please, this is JA7DYJ in Northern Japan" wow...we'd got him! Contact was established and



I worked **Sato** for a full five minutes on s.s.b. He was very surprised to hear where I had mounted the radio and that I was only running with about 21W.

Sato gave me a 5-5 report; he was 5 by 8. There was an enormous pile up for him as soon as we'd signed so I guess I just timed my call right! Both Kevin and I were in a state of shock after that and once we'd picked ourselves up off the floor, we

departed from our vantage point, more than content with the results

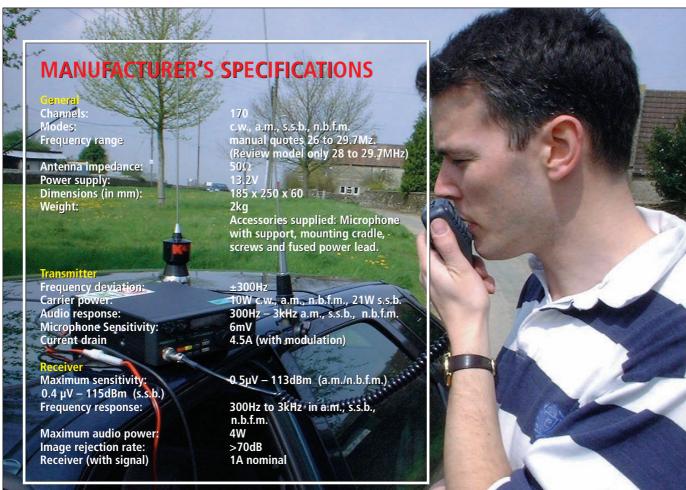
No Nonsense!

The President Lincoln is a no nonsense transceiver with enough functions to keep most people fully occupied. The lack of repeater shift and memory facilities wasn't too much of a problem to me but may be to some operators.

The front panel is well designed and easy to use. The l.c.d. display is clear and easy to view (I would have preferred it to be slightly larger though). The 9-pin block on the rear panel is clearly unusual for this type of radio and is something you would just have to live with I'm afraid.

The reports I had on the transmitted audio were very good and the receiver held up well when compared to my FT-920. I didn't try the rig on a.m. or c.w. but you should be able to read how much we enjoyed s.s.b. and n.b.f.m!

PW



the President Lincoln 28MHz transciever so much that he bought the review model! (Photograph courtesy of Kevin Romang G4SKN).

Fig. 4: Jon

Wheeler G0IUE

enjoyed using



backchat

on the



amateur airwayes software

world of

scanners

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come up with
an idea for a
simple-to-build
QRP threevalved threeband c.w.
transmitter.

s the cost of commercially made radio equipment is climbing higher and higher, many newly licenced Radio Amateurs may be scared of joining the hobby. But getting started with your first station need not be so expensive. In fact building a transmitter, as described here, can be cheap and give a degree of satisfaction at having built it.

The QRP level transmitter I'm going to describe here, is a two-valved crystal controlled unit that can easily produce a useful amount of power on the three bands of 7, 14 or 21MHz. Each band can have an individual crystal, or the oscillator stage can produce output at harmonically related frequencies.

And if you don't have a source of suitable crystals, there's always the option of using the v.f.o. input. By using a sufficiently stable oscillator, a tuneable transmitter can be yours. This option treats the first valve as an amplifier /multiplier, rather than as an oscillator.

Look at the circuit diagram of **Fig. 1** and I'll describe it for you. The first stage around V2, is configured as a Colpitts oscillator and drive amplifier/multiplier. As shown, the stage is acting as an oscillator, as the crystal is in circuit.

Natural Frequency

Capacitive coupling and feedback from the cathode of the valve should cause this stage to oscillate quite well at the natural frequency of the crystal. As the valve will initially have no reverse grid bias, even small oscillations will cause some grid current to flow.

The grid current that flows on oscillation peaks, will not be able to leak away through the $100k\Omega$ grid resistor. So, a negative voltage at the grid with respect to the cathode will tend to build up. Eventually the level of oscillations will stabilise at one level, for any one crystal, as only a small average grid current flows.

If a stable v.f.o. signal (preferably several volts peak-to-peak) is available then, with the switch S3 in the other position, the first stage acts as an amplifier. The amount of drive available from the v.f.o. would perhaps need to be adjusted to give the desired output power from V3.

But in a similar fashion to when it's used as an oscillator, when used as an amplifier, the circuit will also tend to act as a gain controlled stage and give a more stable output level. If the oscillator input is low (with the stage is running at a higher

current) then dissipation in the anode resistor R3 can rise rather sharply.

Crystal Controlled

I think that this transmitter will most likely be used as a crystal controlled one. This need not mean that the frequency is completely fixed. A degree of frequency shift of a few kilohertz could be managed, if a small value variable capacitor is added to the circuit, either in series or, in parallel with the crystal. Other crystals in the 7MHz band could also be plugged into the circuit to provide other frequency choices.

When V3 is acting as a multiplier stage, for output on the 14 or 21MHz band, then the v.f.o. input will probably need to be quite high level, to achieve adequate drive for the stage. The output from the first stage is taken from the anode tuned circuit, where one of three coils is resonated with C7/8, at either 7, 14 or 21MHz.

Note: It might even be possible to get some drive out at 28MHz, but the level is likely to be somewhat lower. **Editor.**

Safety Feature

Capacitor C7 acts as a safety feature, blocking the standing anode voltage of V1 from the peaking capacitor C8. I fitted this component, as many capacitors recovered from old radio are likely to be physically small units, and have a lower breakdown voltage.

The selected signal from V2, is coupled to the power amplifier stage of V3, a simple keyed cathode amplifier. The two small inductors L6 and L8 reduce self oscillation or harmonic operation.

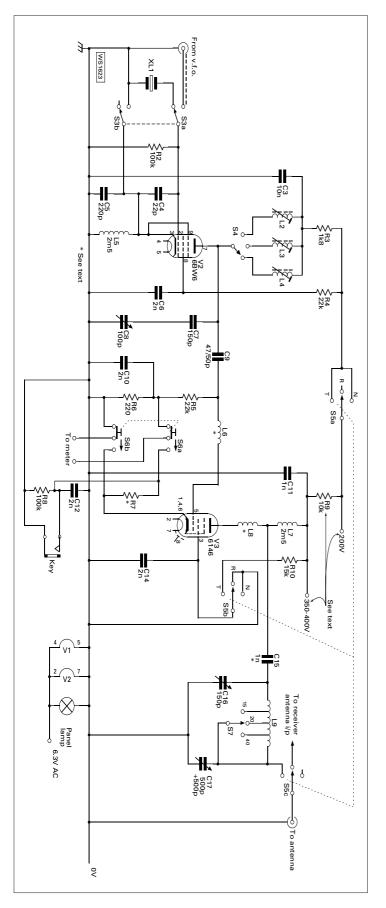
Monitoring of both the grid drive and cathode currents will aid tuning and matching the stages. And this may be carried out with the station multimeter, thus saving the cost and complexity of building in meters to monitor these currents.

Circuit Arranged

Please note that the circuit is arranged so that the meter does not have to be reversed when measuring the grid current and cathode current. As V3 should be driven hard enough to take grid current, the grid itself will be negative with respect to the chassis (0V).

So, if you have a simple moving coil ammeter, the negative lead should be coupled to the right-hand of the terminals labelled Meter. If the transmitter is





• Fig. 1: Valved transmitters, like this simple two-valved one, are both simple to build and robust in use by newcomers. But adequate care must be taken as the applied supply voltages may be lethal to the unwary!

Shopping List

| Resist | ors | |
|--------|-----|-----|
| Carbon | or | mat |

tal film (1W 5%) 220Ω 1 $22k\Omega$ R5R2, 8 $100k\Omega$ 2 Wirewound (5W 5%) R3 $1.8 \mathrm{k}\Omega$ $15 \mathrm{k}\Omega$ R10 $22k\Omega$ R4 Wirewound (10W 5%) $4.7k\Omega$ R1 $10 \mathrm{k}\Omega$ R9

Capacitors

Silver Mica (or high voltage polyester) 22pF C4

C9 47pFC7 150pF 220pF C5High voltage ceramic 1nF 1 C11 C6, 10, 12, 14 2nF10nF

 $Ceramic\ (2kV\ working)$ 1nF C15 1

Electrolytic 550V working (see text for alternatives)

8µF C116µF C2

Variable Air Spaced (wide plate spacing)

100pF C8 1 150pF 1 C16 Variable (good quality airspaced)

500+500pF C17

Valves

V1 OA5 1 6BW6 V2 1 6146 V3

Inductors

2.5 mH1 L5 (must be capable of carrying

50mA)

L7 (a transmitter style choke coil, to 2.5 mH1

carry 100mA)

L1 (or other heavy duty low

frequency choke)

wound on a 6mm former with a dust core}

RF coils {0.46mm (26s.w.g.) enamelled wire close

11turns

L2L321turns L4 45turns

Pi-match inductor

L9 22 turns of 1.22mm (18s.w.g.) tinned copper wire wound (spaced one wire diameter) on a 32mm former, with tappings at 12 and 5

turns from C17 end of the coil

Radio Frequency Chokes

5 turns 0.305mm (30s.w.g.) enamelled wire L6, L8

wound on a 1W 100Ω resistor

Miscellaneous

A suitable box and chassis, valvebases, interconnecting wire, insulating and terminal posts, and other hardware to suit, 7MHz crystal and holder, mains transformer suitable for the power supply, various switches as suggested in text



keyed without drive, there may quite a large current flowing through V3 so, some form of meter protection may be needed.

During periods of receiving or 'netting' the p.a. stage has the g2 voltage of the valve taken to 0V. This takes the valve V3, very near to cut-off as well as reducing the possibility of spurious operation.

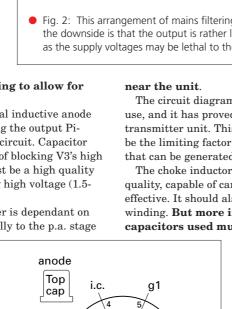
Ceramic Type

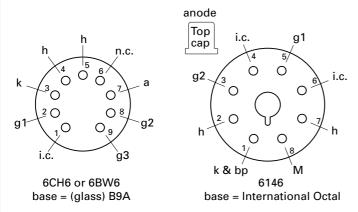
The change-over switch used in the S5 position should ideally be a ceramic type. But, because of the high voltages that will be present at these points, the switch used

must have adequate spacing to allow for safe connections.

The p.a. stage has the usual inductive anode load component of L7, feeding the output Pimatch tuning and matching circuit. Capacitor C15 forms the safety aspect of blocking V3's high value of d.c. voltage and must be a high quality unit capable of withstanding high voltage (1.5-2kV).

Obviously the output power is dependant on the voltages applied, especially to the p.a. stage



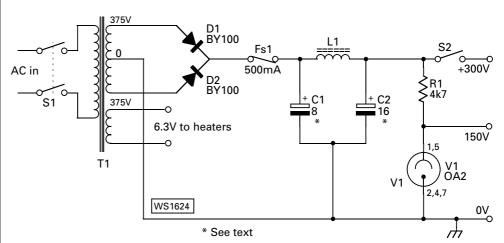


of V2. I've found that a supply of about 200V is adequate for the first valve stage, but up to 450V may be applied to the p.a. stage when, with high drive, as much as 30-40W of r.f. may easily be created.

If two separate high voltage supplies are available then they should be used. In this case the resistor R9 is redundant otherwise, it's best to use a supply of around 350V and a wirewound resistor (of around 5-10k Ω) to drop the supply to the oscillator valve to around 200V.

Power Supply

Now to look at a suitable power supply unit (p.s.u.) for the project. As you will be aware, the voltages present may be lethal, and great care must be exercised at all times when



• Fig. 2: This arrangement of mains filtering has a better regulation than simply using capacitors alone, but the downside is that the output is rather lower than the r.m.s input voltage. Adequate care must be taken as the supply voltages may be lethal to the unwary!

The circuit diagram of Fig. 2 is the circuit I use, and it has proved adequate to power the transmitter unit. This is the unit that's likely to be the limiting factor in the amount of power that can be generated on the bands.

The choke inductor of L1 must be of a high quality, capable of carrying at least 100mA to be effective. It should also have a low resistance winding. But more importantly, the capacitors used must be capable of

withstanding the voltages present.

Off load, the voltage across capacitors C1 and C2 will be over 500V. So, they must be rated for at least 550V, preferably 600V or more.

Not Available?

If a choke inductor is not available, then a simpler circuit using a 250-0-250V transformer with just a capacitive filter might be used. Capacitors, capable of withstanding 350V or

more should be used in the C1/2 positions, with a total capacity of around one hundred to two hundred microfarads should be adequate.

The voltage stabiliser valve of V1 may be dispensed with if you cannot get hold of one. But it will help to make the output tone of the transmitter sound better, and could help keep transmitter chirp (slight frequency shifts on keying up) to a minimum.

The transformer must also be able to supply sufficient current for both valve heaters. The two valves used in this circuit will need a combined heater current of at least 2A (V2 need 4-500mA, V3 around 1.4A) at 6.3V. If the heater winding cannot cope, then another heater voltage transformer could be used to help spread the load.

WARNING

POSSIBLE EMC PROBLEMS

Because of the harmonically rich output nature of the crystal oscillator circuit in this standard (and once extremely popular) design approach for a c.w. transmitter - potential constructors should be aware of possible problems. Even with low transmitter outputs (even with transmitter outputs of 5W or less) a significant possibility of EMC difficulties is **present**. So, to minimise interference to domestic v.h.f. radio and u.h.f. television reception it's advisable to build the unit into an enclosed metal cabinet and provide a really good quality lowpass filter between the Pi output tuning stage and the final antenna tuning unit. With these precautions, the transmitter should - as it did for many of us 30 or more years ago - provide much pleasure on the Amateur bands. Editor.

PW

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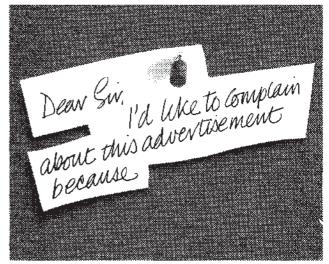
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Antenna Workshop

A PORTABLE PAIR



The comparative sizes of both the PBX-100 on its mounting spike, and the ATX-Walkabout antenna connected to a Yupiteru MVT-7100 multi-band receiver being used by 16-year old William Butler (G4ASR Harmonic!)

David Butler G4ASR takes a look at a pair of smart new portable multi-band vertical antennas to go with the equally smart new portable rig that you've just bought.

've recently had the opportunity of taking a look at a pair of lightweight vertical antenna designed for the range of portable h.f. and 50MHz transceivers. So, here are a few of my tests that I carried out using the PBX-100 portable h.f. vertical and the ATX-Walkabout portable

antenna from Yaesu.

The PBX-100 portable h.f. vertical antenna operates on all bands from 3.5MHz through to 50MHz (including the WARC bands). It has a power handling capability of 100W making it very suitable for use with many transceivers capable of running that level of output power.

Of course the PBX-100 antenna can also be used with any low power transceiver such as the new Yaesu FT-817. It features automatic band changing on the 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28 and 50MHz bands. That means that you can move between these bands without having to touch the antenna.

The PBX-100 vertical antenna comes complete including wire for the ground planes. But for use on



the WARC bands of 10, 18 and 24MHz various resonating coils have to be swapped around. However, I'll explain more about that later.

Fully Assembled

The fully assembled height of the PBX-100 is 2.5m. All coils and telescopic whips may be

unscrewed and the antenna will telescope down to approximately a metre in length when not in use. A plus point, is that the screw-out whips can be easily replaced if damaged.

Two base mounts are included, plus a ground spike and machined aluminium clamps that can be used for fixing the antenna onto a caravan jockey wheel or any vertical pole up to 50mm diameter. You could even clamp the antenna to metal railings of your hotel veranda!

The PBX-100 consists of a telescoping tube at the top of which are fitted various resonating coils and telescopic whips in both the horizontal and vertical plane. At the base of the antenna is an SO239 socket for the coaxial feeder to the transceiver and a connection point for the ground plane wires.

Sufficient wire is supplied to make five radials with lengths ranging between 17m (for use on the 7MHz band) down to 1.25m (for use on the 50MHz band). Operation on the 3.5MHz band requires **all ground radials** to be in place.

Note that it's important that **the ground radials are used** with this vertical antenna. As mentioned earlier the PBX-100 is auto band selecting when operating on the 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28 and 50MHz bands.

If you want to use the antenna on the WARC bands you simply remove the top 3.5MHz resonating coil and substitute it with either the 14, 21 or 28MHz resonator coil. With a suitable adjustment to the telescopic whip length those coils will now operate on the 10, 18 and 24MHz bands respectively.

Assembling Antenna

Next it was time to start assembling the antenna and see how easy it was to tune up. The telescoping tube was set at the recommended height of 1.16m. To help a locking wheel is mounted on the mast enabling the spacing to be easily set without having to use a screwdriver or spanner. (This is a really neat idea!) The length of the lower tubing really only affects the 50MHz band, having virtually no effect on h.f. band resonance. The mounting spike was pushed into the ground and the antenna mast simply dropped into it. The locking wheel makes this process incredibly simple.

 The ground spike mounting of the PBX-100 antenna is easy to assemble. Note the ground radials needed with this (or almost any) vertical antenna design.

Antenna Workshop

The resonating coils are marked with the relevant frequency bands and these were screwed into a machined collar at the top of the mast. The telescopic whips were then screwed into the coils and adjusted to the length recommended in the instruction sheet. (Remember to take a tape measure with you!)

Finally the wire ground planes were spread out on the ground and attached to the base mounting point with a wing nut. That's it - no tools required at all.

Tuning Up

Having attached a suitable length of coaxial feeder to the SO239 socket it was time to tune up the antenna on the various h.f. bands. Adjusting the whip on each individual resonating coil has no effect on the others. It's therefore a simple matter of increasing the whip length to lower the resonant frequency or similarly decreasing the length of whip to raise the frequency of resonance.

Depending on how or where the antenna is located, this fact will determine how much the whips will need adjustment. In my case I found that most telescopic whips needed to be reduced in length by 50mm or so from that recommended.

Adjustments should be carried out in small increments, a few millimetres at a time. A 6mm change on the 7MHz band for example moved the resonant frequency by 25kHz.

When I measured the bandwidth between the 2:1 v.s.w.r. points (chosen as most modern transceivers will still give full output at this v.s.w.r. limit, as expected the lowest frequency band (3.5MHz) produced the narrowest bandwidth. However, at the centre frequency of 3.750MHz it was only $20 \mathrm{kHz}$.

The bandwidth at 7MHz measured 50kHz covering the s.s.b. (or c.w.) sections of the band. On 14MHz I measured a 2:1 v.s.w.r. bandwidth of 110kHz between 14.090MHz and 14.200MHz. It was flat right across 21MHz and for much of the 28MHz band. Results on the WARC bands were very similar. At 50MHz the v.s.w.r. was very flat covering the entire band.

Portable Results

I decided to test out the antenna under truly portable conditions, operating from farmland near my home. The PBX-100 was quickly mounted on the ground spike with approximately 6m of feeder running back to the car. Using a Kenwood TS-690S h.f. + 50MHz transceiver running 100W output I then proceeded to make some s.s.b. contacts on various bands.

My first QSO was made on the 7MHz band with the station of **Pat Woods G3HLN** (Welwyn Garden City). He was peaking 57 in signal strength and gave me Practical Wireless, July 2001 a report of 55. When I told him I was using an antenna approximately 2m high he said "What a signal, you're really doing well. Isn't it incredible what can be done with a small aerial".

Encouraged by that I decided to try out the higher frequency bands. Moving up to 14MHz I quickly made contact with IK5WWB who gave me a 59+ report and mentioned that I was doing a really excellent job with such a small antenna. Then it was up to 21MHz where I found many operators calling the expedition



■ The ground spike mounting of the PBX-100 antenna is easy to assemble. Note the ground radials needed with this (or almost any) vertical antenna design.

station **EA9/DJ7ZJ** operating from Ceuta, North Africa. Surprisingly he came back to my first call giving me a 57 report!

Then it was time for me to try out the h.f. vertical on the 28MHz band. The band was open to the east and I quickly made s.s.b. contacts with the stations of **YO5AXB** (Romania), **RV4CT** (Russia) and **4L4C** (Georgia), all giving me 58 reports.

Swapping the coils around, I then made some QSOs on the WARC bands. These included **OM5NU** (Slovakia) on 10MHz, **SV2CCA** (Greece) on 18MHz and **OK1PB** (Czech Republic) on 24MHz.

During the review period the daytime propagation on the 3.5MHz band was very poor so I decided to try out the PBX-100 antenna during the evening. Unfortunately the band was very noisy but I did manage to scrape a brief contact with **Don Still GOOOC** (Horsham, Surrey).

I'm not really surprised at the limitation on the 3.5MHz band as the antenna is really 'small' at this frequency. That aside, I was pleasantly surprised with the overall results produced by the PBX-100 vertical antenna. It has a good performance for its size, it's lightweight, unobtrusive and very easy to install.

The ATX-Walkabout

I also had the opportunity to review the ATX-Walkabout portable antenna which has been designed as an ideal supplement to the Yaesu FT-817 low power multi-band transceiver. The portable ATX telescopic antenna operates on all h.f. bands from 3.5-28MHz (including the WARC bands) and both the 50 and 70MHz bands. It can also be used as a $5^{1}/8$ wave antenna on the 144 band and 136MHz (Airband).

The ATX-Walkabout antenna consists of a multi-tapped base resonating coil into which is screwed a 1.3m long telescopic whip. At the base of the antenna is a BNC plug which attaches directly to the transceiver. There's also a version which has a right-angled PL259 plug fitted

instead.

Yaesu provide a word of caution when using their FT-817 with whip antennas terminating in a BNC plug so the PL259 version might be a prudent option. Band changing is achieved by manually patching a wire link between various tapping points on the base coil. For correct h.f. operation a groundplane wire should be attached to the grounding post on the transceiver.

To test the ATX-Walkabout antenna I used a Trio TS-120V transceiver running 10W output with the antenna connected directly into the rear antenna socket. I didn't measure the v.s.w.r. bandwidths on the various bands opting instead to adjusting the antenna length to suit the frequency in use. Once I'd worked out where resonance occurred it

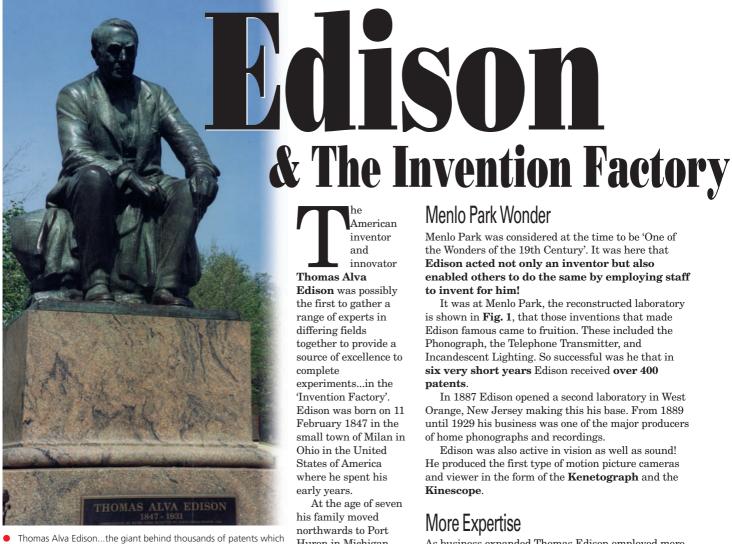
was then a simple matter of tweaking the whip up or down as appropriate.

Listening on the 7MHz band I heard the station of GOONH (Halesowen, West Midlands) calling CQ. I gave him a call but my s.s.b. signal was very weak with him. Running low power into a small antenna is always going to be a challenge so I decided to operate on higher frequencies where the antenna might be more efficient.

Tuning through the 14MHz band I heard the station of **9A4KF** operating from Hvar Island in Croatia. He was 59 with me and came back first call, giving me a 54 report. Then up to the 21MHz band where I found the station of **EA6/DL1XQ** holidaying in Majorca. After calling a few times he also came to me with a 54 report. I was quite pleased!

I have to say it was a struggle but at least I made a few contacts. Then I had the idea of using the antenna with my Yupiteru MVT-7100 hand-held multi-band receiver. The improvement on h.f. over the standard whip was dramatic. Signals just popped out of the noise much, much stronger. So it's not only the transmitting Amateur who can use this antenna - the s.w.l.s may find it useful as well.

Both antennas are available from Waters & Stanton, Tel: (01702) 206835. The PBX-100 portable h.f. vertical antenna retails at £99.95 plus P&P, while the ATX-Walkabout antenna retails at £69.95 plus P&P.



came from the 'Inventions Factory' at Menlo Park in the USA.

Dick Pascoe GOBPS, a PW author well known for his sense of humour, shares the enjoyment he experienced looking at the work of Thomas Edison when on holiday in the USA.

References: Source material includes Working At Inventing edited by William S. Pretzer. Published by the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Park All photographs by the author, G0BPS.

provided much of his limited schooling at home.

By 1859 at the ripe old age of 12 Thomas Edison began selling sweets and newspapers on the Grand Trunk Railroad that ran between Port Huron and Detroit. By the time he was 16 he was already working as a telegraph operator in the South and Midwest of the USA, during the years that the American Civil War was raging far to the south.

First Invention

Edison's interest in electronics and mechanics had been fired by his experience with the railroad and his first invention soon followed! He moved to Boston in 1868 where he managed to arrange a local businessman to finance his experiments and his first patented invention, the Electric Vote Counter.

Without doubt Edison's main interest lay in telegraphy. Whilst he lived in Boston he had 'borrowed' space in a workshop. Coincidentally another inventor had also borrowed space there - his name? Alexander

Edison's announced he was to become a "full-time inventor" and moved once again...to New York where he formed his first business - to manufacture telegraph equipment. He was just 22 years old at this time!

Two years later saw the opening of Edison's first factory and laboratory in nearby Newark, New Jersey. Several inventions followed but it wasn't until he opened his 'Inventions Factory' Menlo Park, also in New Jersey that the flow of ideas and patents really

Menlo Park Wonder

American inventor

innovator

and

Thomas Alva

differing fields

complete

Edison was possibly

together to provide a

experiments...in the

'Invention Factory'.

Edison was born on 11

February 1847 in the

small town of Milan in

At the age of seven his family moved

Ohio in the United

States of America

where he spent his

northwards to Port

Huron in Michigan.

Thomas's mother

early years.

source of excellence to

the first to gather a range of experts in

Menlo Park was considered at the time to be 'One of the Wonders of the 19th Century'. It was here that Edison acted not only an inventor but also enabled others to do the same by employing staff to invent for him!

It was at Menlo Park, the reconstructed laboratory is shown in Fig. 1, that those inventions that made Edison famous came to fruition. These included the Phonograph, the Telephone Transmitter, and Incandescent Lighting. So successful was he that in six very short years Edison received over 400 patents.

In 1887 Edison opened a second laboratory in West Orange, New Jersey making this his base. From 1889 until 1929 his business was one of the major producers of home phonographs and recordings.

Edison was also active in vision as well as sound! He produced the first type of motion picture cameras and viewer in the form of the Kenetograph and the Kinescope.

More Expertise

As business expanded Thomas Edison employed more experts in the fields where he lacked knowledge. These included Mathematicians, Skilled Machinists, Assayists*, Chemists and even Carpenters and Glassmakers.

Business grew and to the two-story timber-framed building, which housed his laboratory and offices, was added a carpenter's shop, a glass-house and a photographer's studio. Even a blacksmith's shop was considered essential.

During this time Edison sold the rights to his Printing Telegraph to finance more research. At this time high-speed telegraphy systems sent messages across the USA to be printed out on strips of paper.

The dots and dashes of the Morse code of the day were imprinted (and cut) onto paper and passed through a machine. An electrical contact was passed over the perforations - thus completing the electrical circuit (the equivalent of the Morse key) and the messages were then transmitted. Edison's system used electrochemical recorders as these could be used at much higher speeds.

*Specialists who determine the amounts of metals in basic ores, etc.

Light Work

The experimental work with electric lighting which Edison had become closely involved, had started with the electric motors and batteries used in telegraphy. The lamp experiments had started in 1879 with Edison observing the effects of incandescence on rare metals such as Platinum.

Edison was not one to totally rely on his own skills



but often researched other experiments to learn what others had tried. One of his sources of information was the Royal Society of London.

Because his electric light experiments were not proceeding at a satisfactory rate, another expert was brought in to help. The expert - **Francis Upton** - later claimed that he learnt more about electricity from Edison than he had during his scientific course work!

More university educated engineers were enrolled and strong links to expert machinists were also forged (a pun perhaps...but it's appropriate!). This meeting of skills soon solved the problems besetting Edison and his team.

The work force expanded from around 10 or 12 up to 40 people. It became almost an electric obsession with Edison that the lights should be brought into commercial use and his first town application was the electrification of two square miles of Manhattan.

Alexander Graham Bell

I mentioned Alexander Graham Bell earlier and of course he's the chap we all remember as inventing the telephone, which is correct as he made the first device which transmitted the human voice over a wire link. However, who was it that converted his crude device into something that could be reliably used by anyone? Yes, you've got it one...it was Thomas Edison.

What is much less known is that Edison took the early device and made it into the commercial success it is now. He invented the carbon microphone which is in use many decades later. And apart from telegraphy and light, the telephone was the other main interest at Menlo Park for over two years.

Without doubt Edison and Menlo Park go hand-in-hand yet it was essentially only in use as an invention centre for five years

Thomas Alva Edison passed away on 18 October 1931 at the age of 84, with him passed away much of the Factory Farming form of inventing.



 Fig. 2: Inside view of the re-created laboratory (see text).



• Fig.1: The reconstructed laboratory from Menlo Park now in Greenfield Village, Detroit, Michigan. The building was rebuilt from the ruined remains, thanks to the actions of Henry (The pioneer of mass produced cars) Ford.

Greenfield Village

The reproduction of Menlo Park at Greenfield Village in Detroit, Michigan is a faithful re-incarnation of Edison's workshop and laboratory, **Fig. 2**, that used to stand in New Jersey. It was a ruin before Henry Ford took an interest in saving the building.

The reconstruction must have been reasonably correct as Edison visited it in 1929 to re-enact the demonstration of the light bulb for the dedication of the Edison Institute. The Edison seal of approval?

Not only the laboratory, but also the machine shop and the local boarding house have been moved. A relative (a lady named **Sarah Jordan**) of Edison's wife who had been widowed had been brought in to provide accommodation for the workers at the centre. The house was demolished and rebuilt at Greenfield Village a few yards away from the laboratory.

Edison Film

The life of Edison was considered so interesting and important that it was made into a film, *Edison*, *The Man*. This 1940s

film starred **Spencer Tracy** as Edison.

I visited the Greenfield Village some time ago, on an extra excursion while on holiday to attend the Dayton HamVention, with the Rev. George Dobbs G3RJV and Ian Keyser G3ROO. I was immediately struck by the ambience of the building.

As we walked in we were welcomed by the attendant and left to look around. We soon

found the office with several items on the desk. Unfortunately it was locked. However,

a few moments later we were inside because the attendant heard we were Radio Amateurs and British - he promptly opened the door. It was a very quiet day so we had the ground floor to ourselves.

The lab is on the upper floor and is maintained exactly as if everyone had just popped out for lunch. To help create the atmosphere a range of experiments is set up on the benches surrounding the room.

Visitors are normally restricted to the small area at the top of the stairs. Except for us of course! Another chat (we're British, etc.,) and we were given free reign **to look but not touch** as we wandered around the room.

Many "Oohs and Ahhhs" were heard as we peered closely at the exhibits. We were left on our own for almost 30 minutes until a quick shout brought us back within the roped off area as more visitors arrived.

Grateful thanks were whispered as we moved on. The highlight of this part of the visit was being able to get close enough for some photographs, which were otherwise unobtainable.

Greenfield Village contains many other exhibits including an English Cotswold 'smithy' transplanted from the United Kingdom. There's also an imported mid-west house from the 19th century which is 'manned' by staff who live in the house during open hours. They work the smallholding, cook on the open fire...all with visitors walking around them asking questions! There's even a vintage style train, hauled by a vintage style steam locomotive called *Edison* which carries visitors around the huge village.

The village is next to the **Henry Ford Motor Museum** which houses hundreds of cars, motorcycles and military vehicles, including the car supposedly carrying
Kennedy when he was shot. Both the Village and the Car museum are located in the suburb of Dearborn, Detroit in Michigan and a visit to both is highly recommended.

So, if you ever get round to visiting the Dayton HamVention...why not plan one or tow other excursions? I'd be pleased if you could enjoy the experience as much as G3RJV, G3ROO and I did!

THE ROYAL INTERNATION

Watch the skies come alive over the weekend of 28/29 July at RAF Cottesmore in Rutland, home to Britain's famous Harrier 'Jump Jet', as the RAIT celebrates its 30th birthday. Enter our competition for the ultimate aviation experience of the year.

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets all you have to do is answer the questions opposite, fill in the form and send your entry to *Practical Wireless*, RIAT Competition, Arrowsmith Court, Station Approach, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 PW by 6 July 2001. Photocopies of the form are acceptable, but please remember to include the corner flash.

So what are you waiting for? Post your entry today!













AL AIR TATTOO 2 0





Aces High

The RIAT 2001 will feature 350 fascinating aircraft, with old favourites like the Spitfire, the classic Hawker Hunter jet and majestic Lancaster sharing the skies with the next generation Eurofighter. There will also be sensational performances from some of the world's leading Top Guns, including the superstar Red Arrows and other high-flying aerobatic teams. The three main themes of this year's RIAT will be Women in Aviation, Training 2001 and 60 years of the Air Training Corps. So don't forget to take your Airband radio!

Ground Alert

If you can take your eyes off the skies for just a few moments you'll find 250 aircraft in the static-line display, plus a fantastic show-ground party with stalls, exhibitions, roadshows, celebrities, aircrews, entertainers, buskers, marching bands, and flight simulators. This is also your chance to meet the international aircrew face to face and to sit in the cockpit of some of the world's slinkiest fighters.

Salute to Women in Aviation

Britain's first woman pilot, Mrs Hilda Hewlett, was awarded a pilot's licence in August 1911. Ninety years later RIAT 2001 will pay tribute to women pilots, aircrew and ground staff, representing the Royal Air Force and other air arms across the world. Airshow visitors will also meet some of the

together with members of the Air Transport Auxiliary who served so bravely during the Second World War.

women who fly today's civil aircraft,

Training 2001

Pilots appearing at RIAT 2001 are products of cutting-edge 21st century training for military aviators, which includes state-of-the-art flight simulators, hi-tech classroom aids and exercise sorties. The Tattoo will be a unique insight into the training techniques that prepare air and ground crews for the increasingly complex demands of modern airpower.

60 Years of the Air Training Corps

What do Linford Christie, one of the world's top athletes, and actor Timothy Dalton, who has played the ultimate action hero James Bond, have in common? They are both past members of the Air

Training Corps (ATC).

The ATC, formed in 1941, is now one of Britain's largest and most successful youth organisations with 37,000 members nd they are very active in Amateur Radio too. The RIAT 2001 will celebrate 60 years of ATC achievements.

Free **Evening** Concert lust add a picnic

Even when the flying display ends, the entertainment is not over. The Airshow Proms ring up the curtain on a two-hour free concert performed Royal Air Force Bands and guest performers - while you enjoy your family picnic, listen to the music and marvel at the splendid sight of 40 hot air balloons launching into the evening sky.

Timetable

The public gates to RAF Cottesmore, located off the A1 near the market town of Oakham, open at 0730 on Saturday and Sunday 28/29 July. The eight-hour flying display starts at 1000.

Tattoo Admission

Advance adult tickets £23.95, on the day £29.00. Children under 16 free. For bookings and ticket info call (08702) 410303.

For the most up to date information on the RIAT call (09068) 122999 or look at www.airtattoo.com (Calls to 09068 numbers cost 60p per minute, of which 18p per minute is donated to The RAF Benevolent Fund Enterprises, PO Box 1940, Fairford, Glos GL7 4NA)



ENTRY COUPON

| Q1: |
|----------|
| Q2: |
| Q3: |
| Q4: |
| Q5: |
| Q6: |
| Q7: |
| |
| Name |
| Callsign |
| Address |
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| |
| Postcode |
| Tel: |
| |
| E-mail: |

Entries must arrive by 6 July 2001

☐ I do not wish to receive future correspondence and mailings as a result of entering this competition.

Send your entry (photocopies acceptable with corner flash) to: Practical Wireless July RIAT Competition, 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.



01:

Q2:

Q3:

Q4:

Q5:

Q6:

Which birthday will RIAT be celebrating at this year's show? A youth organisation will be celebrating its 60 anniversary, which one? Which woman became Britain's first Aviatrix? How many aircraft will feature in the static display? Where will RIAT 2001 be held? RAF Cottesmore is home to which famous aircraft? What are the three themes for RIAT 2001?

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| A743 10/7Mhz kit | £129.95 |
| A4-S 10-15-20m 9dB 2kW 4 el 5.84m boom | £469.95 |
| X7 10-15-20m 13dB 2kW 7 el 5.48m boom | £549.95 |
| X9 10-15-20m 14dB 2kW 9 el 8.5m boom | |
| R-6000 6-20m vert | £299.95 |
| R8 6-40m vert 8.7m | £399.95 |
| TEN-3 10m 3 el | £159.95 |
| D4 10-40m 10.92m 2kW rotary dipole | £259.95 |
| D3 10-20m 7.86m 2kW rotary dipole | £189.95 |
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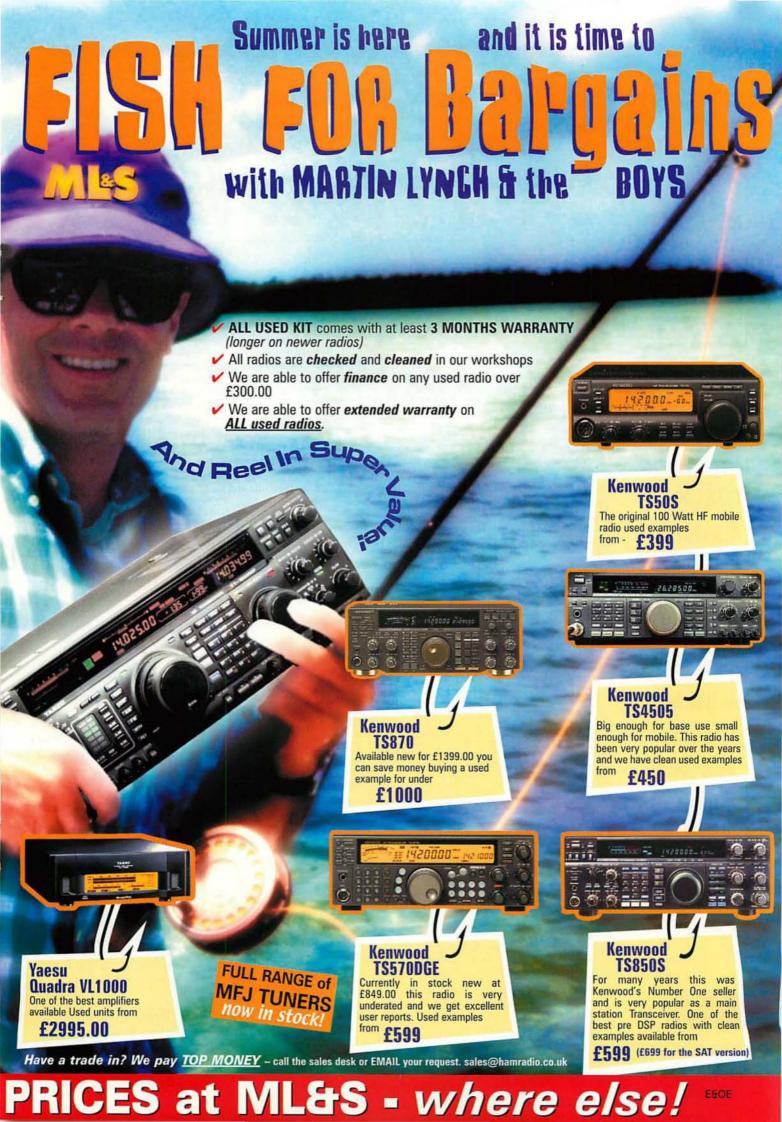
and a few new ones left at £1799.00



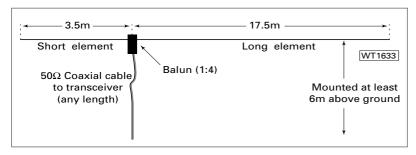
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a great little radio ideal for DXpeditions. From

£499.00



One Wire three bands



• Fig. 1: The simple layout for the asymmetric dipole covering 14, 21 and 28MHz.

Denis Payne
G3KCR
describes a
three band
dipole that
has excellent
characteristics
on the three
Amateur
bands of 14,
21 and
28MHz.

I have been using a Windom antenna, fed via a 4:1 balun, for some time on the 14, 21 and 28MHz bands. One advantage of this antenna is the feed-point, being close to one end it reduces the sag and the feeder length. But, in the spirit of experimentation, I decided to try variations as I wanted a better match for all three bands and felt certain that there had to be a better solution.

My Aims

To achieve my aims on all three bands the antenna would have to be about $20\mathrm{m}$ long. Initially, finding a

point off-centre which offered a similar radiation resistance was by 'guesstimation'. The mounting height was also important and six metres was chosen as the starting point.

I also found that I would still require the use of a step-up balun at the feed-point. In the end, I selected the 4:1 balun which would match the 50Ω coaxial cable to the 200Ω feed-point. Having found the best position for 14MHz and adjusted the overall length, I found that it was also close to a match on 21 and 28MHz.

My next step was to adjust the feed position and length for optimum performance on all three bands. After several experiments, I found that the best overall length was 21m as I've shown in Fig. 1. This length gave s.w.r. figures of less than 2:1 when fed 3.5m from one end for all three bands.

Software Aid

Then, with the aid of software, I calculated the predicted radiation patterns for all the bands. The results appeared to be very good, copies of my printouts are shown in the diagrams. The gains shown in the patterns are with reference to an isotropic radiator (dBi), and so 2.15 should be deducted from the 'dBi' figure to find the gain compared to a dipole

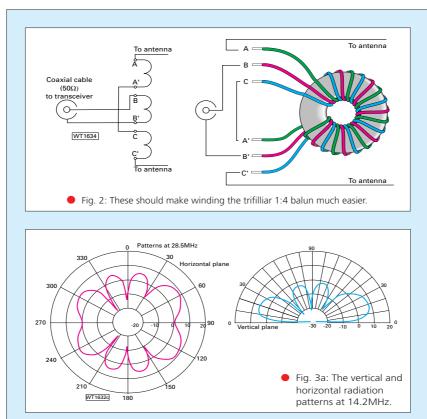
(dBd).

For example, the 8.35dBi gain on 28.5MHz is 6.2dBd (6.2dB better than a basic dipole), and similar to the gain of a small yagi antenna. The patterns and angles of the lobes, are subject to change due to height and nearby objects.

I found that on the 7MHz band, I had an s.w.r. reading of less than 2:1. But computer modelling showed the radiation pattern and maximum radiation were mainly vertical. To reduce the launch angle would require mounting the antenna at a much greater height than I could achieve.

Balun Building

Now to build the 4:1 balun, which consists of a toroid (Fair-Rite 43)





with a diameter of 35mm. It's trifilliar wound with seven turns of (24/0.2mm) insulated flex. I used three wires with different colour insulation, which I find makes it easier to identify the windings.

The centre winding (of the three forming the balun) is connected to the coaxial cable. The other two windings in series become the feed to the antenna. The balun should be fitted into a small, but strong, plastic box.

The circuit and the general wiring are shown in the illustration of Fig. 2. To complete the unit, I used a long grommet through the box for the coaxial cable to prevent water entering. I also used stainless steel screws for the antenna connections to prevent corrosion.

Top Ring

I also included a fixing ring in the top of the box. This allows the antenna to have an alternative support at this point, leaving the short end to be angled downward, making the installation shorter overall. I found that this made very little difference to the s.w.r. readings and performance. However, both end should be kept clear of any metal objects such as masts.

So that's it, an easy antenna covering three popular bands with the minimum of fuss! I wish you good DX.

Patterns at 21.2MHz

Population at 21.2MHz

Population at 21.2MHz

Population at 21.2MHz

Pig. 3b: The vertical and horizontal radiation patterns at 21.2MHz.

Patterns at 28.5MHz

Population at 28.5MHz

Patterns at 28.5MHz

Patterns at 28.5MHz

Patterns at 28.5MHz

Price 30

Patterns at 28.5MHz

Patterns at 28.5MHz

Price 30

Patterns at 28.5MHz

PW

Errors & Updates

I'm sorry to report that the Gremlins have obviously been hard at work on recent issues of PW. Please note the following changes need to be made.

Looking At ...

On pages 19 and 20 of the May 2001 issue of PW, the article **Looking At ... The Signal Strength Meter** by **Gordon King G4VFV**, every instance of a signal level value given in millivolts (mV) should in reality have been microvolts (μ V). A problem of final computer text translation caused the error.

Windfall Antenna

Also in the May 2001 issue, on page 28, in **The Windfall Antenna article** by **Tony Harwood G4HHZ**, the paragraph in the left hand column (alongside Fig. 3) beginning, "Initially the design aimed ..." should actually read: "Initially the design aimed for a non-reactive dipole impedance at the arithmetic mean frequency of each band ie. 14.174 and 21.225MHz. The calculated lengths being 10.05~(5.025~for each leg) and 6.87m (3.435m for each leg) for the two bands of 14 and 21MHz. Calculation of the characteristic impedance gave values of 890Ω on 21MHz and 940Ω on 14MHz, with reactances at band edges of $\pm j15\Omega$ on 21MHz and $\pm j18\Omega$ on

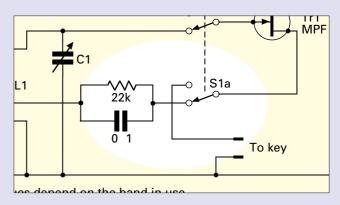
14MHz. These impedance values give calculated s.w.r. values of 1.2:1 (21MHz) and 1.36:1 (14MHz) on the 75Ω feeder."

The error was caused by a misunderstanding with Tony's original manuscript in preparation for publishing.

Carrying On

Now the final problem to be reported, occurred in the June 2001 issue of *PW*.On page 44 of the June 2001 *PW* a problem crept into the circuit diagram of Fig. 1 in **George Dobbs G3RJV**'s article **Carrying On The Practical Way**. The error concerned the connections to S1a in Fig. 1. A corrected circuit is published here, please amend you own issues to show the change highlighted.

My apologies to all readers and authors for these errors. Rob Mannion G3XFD, Editor



It's A Classic..... The Trio TR-2300 144MHz Transceiver

Richard Newton GORSN looks at a truly classic transceiver and he says it's another review item he's not parting with!

ur hobby is by definition, forward looking, always trying to break barriers and achieve new goals. But sometimes it's good to stop and reflect on the days and radios gone by that have either shaped us in our hobby or the hobby itself. There are some equipment on which we look back and smile. And for me the Trio TR-2300 narrow band f.m. hand-sized portable transceiver is one such radio.

I think that Amateur Radio is more than a hobby; it's more of a passion. The bug bites you and that's it, although your interest may wane and other priorities may present themselves in little bundles of joy, when all is said and done, it's still there, the love of radio.

Looking back is all part of the hobby for me and I thoroughly enjoy writing for the It 's a $\mathit{Classic}$ series. On this occasion I get to share my own personal passion for the Trio TR-2300.

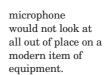
Trio Revolution

The Trio TR-2300, was part of a revolution, made by Kenwood and badged with their then UK trading name, Trio. It was a self contained narrow band f.m. (n.b.f.m.) only transceiver with a double conversion superhet receiver covering the Amateur 144MHz band, incorporating its own battery pack and telescopic antenna.

When introduced, the '2300 was at the cutting edge of technology when it appeared on the market in 1979*. Using 10 NiCad cells, **Fig. 1**, and in place in **Fig. 2**, it delivered 1W of output power. When being used on an external 13.8 volt d.c. supply, a matching 10W linear amplifier was also available. The VB-2300 (on the right in the heading

photograph and the rear view can be seen in Fig. 1).

The Trio
TR-2300 was
supplied
with a
myriad of
accessories.
This
included a
dynamic
microphone,
Fig. 3, and
this small
and
extremely
well made



One of the big selling points of the TR-2300 was portability, it was called a 'Handy Transceiver' and as such Kenwood/Trio supplied it with a soft case and carry strap. You also got a power lead, wall charger, battery cases and a dummy battery (more about the dummy battery later). And I mustn't forget to mention the hook for the microphone that you could screw on the side of the radio, and even a jack plug for an extension speaker!

*The first advert we could find was in Short Wave Magazine March 1979. **Editor**.

Eighty Channels

The TR-2300 covers 144MHz to 145.975MHz using 80 channels in 25kHz steps provided by the internal synthesiser. The front dial on the radio has 40 clickeffect positions and is labelled with the numbers 00 to 95 in multiples of 5 with dots in between, to signify the next channel.

A switch on the front panel then designates either 144 or 145MHz by the numbers 4 or 5. So, if you wanted 145.500MHz you would select the position labelled 5 on the band switch and dial round to 50. (It's easy when you get the hang of it).

The third position on the band switch is **RPT**. This means that the radio will receive across the 40 channels as in the 145MHz selection, but when transmitting it will put in the minus 600kHz repeater shift.

The rather good thing about the main dial is that it has a large notch on the zero position. Interestingly, a very special job was soon found for this switch (and whether this was intended or not I'm uncertain!) because I knew of several operators who were sight impaired and loved the TR-2300 for just this reason.

My friends with sight problems knew if the notch was at the bottom, the radio was tuned to the calling frequency. And because the dial rotated - producing pronounced clicks, they could move channels with ease. Who needs voice synthesisers!

Power Supplies

The Trio TR-2300 can work from an external supply of 13.8V d.c. but the main claim was that it could run from its own batteries. Ten NiCad batteries are required to power the unit, the space for these can be seen in the inside view of Fig. 2, and in my experience they last a long time.

Current drain is about $45 \mathrm{mA}$ in squelched receive







• It's a double classic! Richard Newton GORSN is so keen on the Trio TR-2300 he owns two of them!



with no signal present. On transmit this will then rise to a maximum of about 450mA.

> In use the Trio TR-2300 can also run

> > off dry cells but you have to use the supplied dummy battery. This is because the voltage of a NiCad battery is about 1.2V

but dry cells put out about

1.5V. So, when using dry cells only nine batteries were required.

Straightforward Radio

The TR-2300 is a very straightforward radio with only a few functions. It has an in-built quarter-wave telescopic antenna; and although a little cumbersome for hand portable use it has proved to be a very effective.

A rather impressive helical antenna with a special screw fitting can replace the telescopic and was available as an optional extra. The Trio TR-2300 also has a SO239 fitting on the back for a base or mobile antenna.

Despite what I've just said (only a few functions) the Trio TR-2300 also has some advanced features for its age! These include a backlight for the dial and an a 1750kHz tone burst feature and an auxiliary button.

Incidentally, on some TR-2300s the Tone button toggles on and off, the tone being transmitted at the beginning of every transmission when in the On position. Others versions have been modified so that the button is push-to-make with no latch and therefore will then only transmit the tone when pressed.

The Auxiliary function on the TR-2300 is there for the addition of an additional frequency; this is achieved by adding a crystal of the desired frequency - suitable for a local net making it independent of the transceiver's internal synthesiser. The Auxiliary function has also been used for a reverse repeater function on some 2300s, this was a very easy modification. So if you do pick up second-hand Trio TR-2300 it would be worth looking into what, if anything, the Auxiliary button does on the version you have.

Young Richard!

I first saw a Trio TR-2300 as a young boy in the 1970s. I remember being amazed at the fact it was completely self-contained, Dad had it installed in his car but could easily take it out and use it as a hand portable.

You could get a mobile mount for the Trio TR-2300 which held the radio in place with two clasps, making it a very simple operation to take in and out. I remember being impressed at the look of the radio; it was and is a really good-looking bit of kit.

I finally got my licence in the late 1980s and the first transceiver I bought was a second hand Trio TR-2300. I'd bought the rig from a guy in London and stayed over in the city for a day or so and being unable to stop myself as I just had to get on the air!

My first two contacts were just with the telescopic antenna and bare 1W using the internal batteries. So I wonder if Peter G0KLR and Alex G0MWO remember the QSO I had with them using my gorgeous Trio TR-2300 from a flat in Cricklewood on the 1 March 1990! (I very much doubt it as they were both mobile somewhere in North London!).

My Trio TR-2300 then saw lots of use, I used it in the car - the 1W into a 5/8l wave antenna did the job just fine, bringing many enjoyable simplex and repeater contacts. I also used it to good effect with a home-brewed 10W linear amplifier.

Preparing this article got me pawing back through the dog-eared pages of my first logbook. That in itself brought back some memories!

During the early part of 1990 I used my Trio TR-2300 in the shack, a modest shack in those days too!

> My family and I had just moved and I had a corner in the junk, oops, I mean...box room. I had no external antenna at

> A friend had loaned me a publication with an article describing making a Slim Jim antenna out of $300\Omega\,$ ribbon balanced feeder cable. I remember that I spent the morning measuring and cutting and finally, I proudly hung my home-made Slim Jim tuned to 145MHz from the light fitting in the box room.

I connected it to the Trio TR-2300 and with the full 1W pumping into the internal walls I put out a CQ call on 145.500MHz. I was then amazed to contact G3CMJ near Salisbury, a trip of about 32km.

After the success I was somewhat

impressed, however, I've never really been quite sure whether this was a tribute to the Trio TR-2300 or my antenna construction, but what the heck! It worked! Unfortunately I do not have a record of G3CMJ's name but I remember being astounded that I should get so far with 1W from a home-brewed antenna mounted

Along with my friend Norman Allen (then G7GDZ but now GORCN) I took my Trio TR-2300 onto the Purbecks, the best hills this part of Dorset has to offer.

Product

Trio TR-2300 144MHz Transceiver

Summary

Hill Topping on 144MHz seems to be increasing in popularity again, and a little radio that takes hardly any current and rejects pagers like the Trio TR-2300 does, may well see a renaissance! This is another review when I get to keep the radio at the end of the PW commission...and I'm certainly not parting with my TR-2300!

Price

Scour the second-hand markets for TR-2300s. expect to pay anything between £50 and £100.

Fig. 2: Ten NiCad batteries are required to power the unit and these can be seen fitted in this internal view (see text).

It's A Classic..... The Trio TR-2300 144MHz Transceiver

 Fig. 3: The supplied accessories included a dynamic microphone which would not look at all out of place on a modern item of equipment. The loudspeaker grill is behind the microphone, and also seen in this illustration is the original internally mounted telescopic whip antenna (see text).

I cannot recall what Norman took; I think it may have been a Yaesu FT-290. We had great fun tramping round the hills talking to Norman's Dad. **Gordon G3JTK** back in Poole.

With the advent of smaller hand-held radios and smaller people - I said good-bye to my Trio TR-2300 and bought a dual-band hand-held. But I've never seemed able to work Salisbury on 1W with an internal antenna since!

Two TR-300s!

I missed my Trio TR-2300 so much that I had to get one again. So, several years ago lucky G0RSN managed to acquire two, fully functional Trio TR-2300s, including one with its matching Trio VB-2300 linear amplifier. So, as you can

probably imagine, these are now kept as working cherished radios, and I've used them for everything from QRP hilltop contacts to running packet stations.

One of my TR-2300 transceivers now sits in my shack constantly monitoring our local chat frequency 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's connected to an old 5/8 wave Revco mounted mobile whip screwed to the side of my mast about 2m above the ground and I can talk all over the Bournemouth conurbation on 1W! Anyone who has owned a '2300 will tell you that one TR-2300 watt seems to go further than any others and no, I've no scientific evidence to support that!

Classic & Cheddar

Just to prove that the Trio TR-2300 was still a worth while radio as well as being a classic rig, I decided to take it on a short weekend break in the family caravan to Cheddar in Somerset. I went with

my Father-in-law, **Terry Wood G7VJJ**. Terry also owns a Trio TR-2300 and always takes his transceiver away with him, using it as his main rig in his caravan.

Cheddar is nestled in the Mendip Hills and as such is not a particularly good r.f. take off point for the 144MHz band. However, undaunted Terry and I set up a mast on top of which we placed a 5/8 λ wave mobile whip and connected up the TR-2300.

We hooked up with my brother William G7GMZ, Fig. 4, and

managed a contact with him with the telescopic whip and using the batteries. William lives in Bridgwater; he was about 24km away with nothing much in between us. This proved the radio worked, what we wanted now was a contact with someone outside of the family!

At the 11th hour we got our out-of-the-family QSO. Using just 1W on battery power and the mobile whip on the portable mast we made contact with **Tom G1WQU** in the Cathedral city of Wells. Tom was only about 12km away but the path was very challenging.

I had a wonderful chat with Tom who said that he knew the Trio TR-2300. He described it as "almost a collector's item". He was also very complementary about the signal, describing it as "Excellent"

Tom went on to say that the Trio TR-2300 always was a "very

good radio" and seemed quite impressed that we should have made the trip to him using just the 1W. The final comment was that the audio was "very nice indeed".



So the Trio TR-2300 really has stood the test of time. It's fondly remembered by many and still cherished by people like myself, **Fig.** 5. I'm of the opinion that a transceiver should be more than the sum of its components...and the Trio TR-2300 is certainly that kind of radio.

There are still some Trio TR-2300s about on the second-hand market. I've also noticed that they are very reasonably priced these days, going for anything between £50 and £100.

 Fig. 5: Richard GORSN says that the TR-2300 "Has stood the test of time" and he uses his rigs on a regular basis.



 Fig. 4: Richard GORSN (left) and William Newton G7GMZ and their children enjoying using the TR-2300 on a caravanning weekend.



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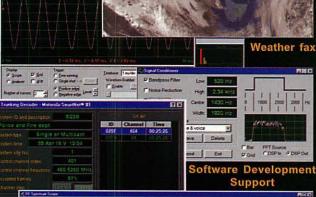
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Amateur Radio Abroad Drake Discovers The Canary Islands!



 The Drake's progress stopped! If Jack Drake GM4MOX had driven any further he would have been in the Atlantic! This view shows Jack operating as EA8/GM4MOX/M north of Cista Teguise on the Island of Lanzarote.

Well not quite,
but Jack Drake
GM4MOX did
discover he could
have an excellent
holiday and
enjoy Amateur
Radio at the
same time when
visiting the
Spanish Canary
Islands off the
coast of North
Africa!

from another country is good fun and stimulates your interest in the hobby and this is often clearly shown in the various "Look what I did on holiday" articles which appear in PW. Our hobby is tremondously flexible and along with providing a fascinating pastime in

itself...can add that very special extra ingredient to make your holiday a memorable one indeed.

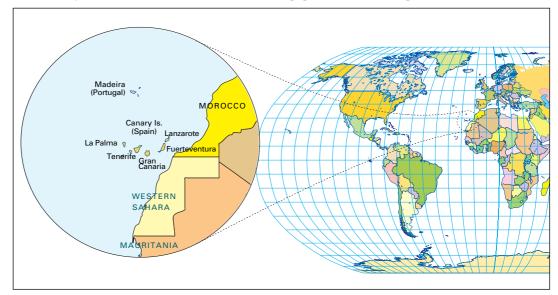
For example, if you're fortunate enough to go on holiday in The Canary Islands, just try driving a couple of kilometres from your resort and you'll get away from all the electronic smog and work parts of the world you have never reached before, as well will be helpful - and provide extra encouragement to anyone already considering taking their Amateur Radio equipment abroad. However, before departing, a good idea is to read the information entitled **Operating Abroad** in the Radio Society of Great Britain's *Yearbook*.

You should also take your UK Licence Validation Document and also have a copy of the foreign country's licensing regulations. The - **extremely useful** - section in the *Yearbook* also provides full contact details for the Spanish Amateur Radio Licensing department and the address of the national society.

Security & Customs

Personally speaking, I've never experienced any problems with airport security or customs, but my advice is that you should keep your Licence Validation Document handy along with appropriate receipts. I also suggest that you carry your transceiver on the aircraft as hand luggage.

On my trip I arranged that the remaining equipment, with the exception of the mobile



 Map showing the relationship of the Canary Islands to North Africa. Although located only a few hundred miles off the North African Coast, the Canary Islands are very close to Europe by fast modern jet aircraft. Ideal for Amateur Radio DX chasing holidays says Jack!

as keeping in touch with your friends back home. You could also end up being an Ambassador for Amateur Radio when you come across officials, but more about that later!

Following the enjoyment of I've experienced on holiday, it's hoped that the following information

antennas, went into the suitcases. Incidentally - to give you yet another idea, my wife **June** has very kindly tailor-made a padded Denim bag for the five mobile antennas and this goes in the hold of the aircraft. The check-in staff invariably think that the antennas are fishing rods and wish me good luck - Fishing For DX perhaps?

Clips & Checks

Before you leave for your holiday, here are a few things to remember under the heading 'Clips &



Checks. Firstly, remember to fit large crocodile clips to the power lead for attachment to the car battery and to take a small torch which will prove useful when connecting to the battery in poor light.

Avoid hiring a car with a sunroof and its also preferable for it to have a manual gearbox. Don't forget it's not possible to bumpstart an automatic car if you inadvertently drain the battery, as I have

almost done by spending too much time on 28MHz n.b.f.m!

Mount the antenna in the centre of the roof in order to get a good groundplane effect - protecting the paint work by placing thin plastic (cut from a plastic carrier bag) between the mag-mount and the roof itself. But bear in mind that a magnetic mount does not achieve an earth, so it will be necessary to earth the outer screen of your coaxial cable to the metalwork of the car. A simple solution is to run an earth lead from the casing of the transceiver to a door striker on the car*.

*Editorial note: When operating /P from my car using the Pro-AM mobile whips mounted on a magmount base, I often use an $insulated\ wire\ groundplane$ counterpoise radial. This wire - approximately~20metres long - can be laid out very quickly and efficiently and greatly assists DX working when you're operating from a site with poor sandy soils - such as the Dorset heathlands where I often operate from. If operating from a car park the radial can be carefully placed along the bottom of a fence so as not to inconvenience other users. I have also thrown the radial wire up into small trees and bushes to great effect. G3XFD.

antennas work superbly and it's certainly worth the effort of changing them when shifting bands. However, having read **Rob Mannion G3XFD**'s interesting Antenna Workshop article in the February 2001 issue of *Practical Wireless* he described, I intend experimenting with the system - the Funktechnik Fibreglass 'fishing rod' portable mast - during my next holiday.

The afternoons brought many contacts



 Jack Operating h.f. mobile from a lay-by overlooking the town of Funchal on the Portuguese Island of Madeira. He found that finding a site was rather more difficult than the drier, more barren landscape of Lanzarote, but the DX worked made it worthwhile.

Awesome Lanzarote

While on holiday in Lanzarote, which is an awe-inspiring volcanic island, I was active on all h.f. bands from 14 to 28MHz normally having a couple of operating sessions per day. Conditions at sunrise were particularly good with 59+20 reports received from Japan, New Zealand & Australia!

To my surprise there was a pile-up of stations from the Far East and most were amazed to learn of my modest equipment especially the mobile antenna set-up. Very satisfying and enjoyable DX!

The Pro-Am no-compromise mobile

from across the Atlantic with some excellent conditions on 28MHz n.b.f.m. During my many visits to Lanzarote I have logged hundreds of QSOs as EA8/GM4MOX/M.

Madeira Mobile

Other holiday locations have proved to be a challenge and finding a suitable operating site in Madeira on one December trip proved more difficult. Fortunately however, a lay-by overlooking the picturesque town of Funchal did the trick and many more exciting contacts were made from this magnificently beautiful and verdant island.

Incidentally, the h.f. beacon CS3B is

located on Madeira and operates on the International Beacon Project frequencies of 14.1, 18.110, 21.500, 24.930 and 28.200MHz. The Editor tells me that CS3B puts a consistently good S9+ signal into Southern England and he often hears the beacon's transmissions when it's switched down to its 100mW output level.

Yes, Madeira is a superb place for an h.f. holiday and the Island is of course

Portuguese, bringing the benefits of the long historical friendship between the Portuguese and the United Kingdom to the fore. In other words, you'll be made extremely welcome and if you have enough time to explore them the ancient freshwater 'Lavada' canals which abound on the steep hillsides around Funchal are fascinating things to see but you do need good walking legs and a head for heights so I'm told!

Drake's DX Gear

The equipment I've taken on holiday comprised my beloved Kenwood TS-50 with its microphone gain set to high (Menu B 66), an MFJ-945 mobile antenna tuning unit (a.t.u.) and a magnetic mount weighing less that 500 grams with a diameter of 90mm.

Note: Please bear in mind the following safety point regarding the use of a mag-mount. The 90mm diameter base on the mag-mount proved sufficient to keep the Pro-Am antennas on the roof even in high winds but I did not risk using it while in motion.

A final word of advice one morning just before sunrise on Lanzarote when I was operating along the coast from our Hotel, the Guarda Civil (Spanish

Police) approached me. They were quite happy when I produced my Licence Validation Document along with a copy of my passport and a few QSL cards (one of which they kept!). So, to ensure a happy and trouble free holiday...make sure these documents are with you at all times.

Should you require any further information or advice, please contact me: **Jack GM4MOX** on **(01592) 267512** or via e-mail: **jack@gm4mox.co.uk**

In the meantime I hope that you too get as much out of your holidays with the extra special 'Added Extras' that Amateur Radio can bring as I have. I look forward to meeting you on the DX bands on my next trip!

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| | SED E | | | MISINIT | P | KIC | E LIST | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------------|---|----------------|
| IAKE DI | MODEL AR-146 2m FM 50W MOBILE 4001 4m TRANSCEIVER | PRICE | KENWOOD | SP-120 LOUDSPEAKER | £30.00 | SMC SML | T3-170L SWR & POWER METERSWR-25 SWR & POWER METER | £20 |
| KD | 4001 4m TRANSCEIVER | £130.00 | KENWOOD | SP-950 LOUDSPEAKER | £90.00 | SOMMERKAMP | FT290R 2m MULTI-MODE TRANSCEIVER | £180 |
| KD | 6001 6m FM TRANSCEIVER | £135.00 | KENWOOD | TH-25E HANDY TRANSCEIVER | £49.00 | SSB ELECTRONICS | LT-23 23cms TRANSVERTER | £450 |
| LINCO LINCO | DJ-G1 HANDY TRANSCEIVER DJ-G5EY DUAL BAND HANDY | £120.00 | KENWOOD KENWOOD | TH-47E HANDY TRANSCEIVERTH-79E HANDY TRANSCEIVER | £100.00 | ST3 HEADPHONES | DELUXE HEADPHONESAX-700E WIDE BAND RECEIVER - BASE | £4 |
| LINCO | DJ-X1 RECEIVER | £90.00 | KENWOOD | TH-D7E 2m / 70cms HAND HELD BUILT- | | | SCANNER | £170 |
| LINCO | DJ-X10 WIDE BAND RECEIVER | £275.00 | | IN TNCTL-120 100W LOW DRIVE HF AMPLIFIER | £195.00 | SYNCRON | PS-1220VU 20 AMP POWER SUPPLY | £60 |
| LINCO | DR-150E 2M 50W MOBILE TRANSCEIVER . | £140.00 | KENWOOD | TL-120 100W LOW DRIVE HF AMPLIFIER | £150.00 | TAGRA | 22AMP POWER SUPPLY | £70 |
| LINCO LINCO | DR-M06 6M FM TRANSCEIVEREDX-1 ATU | £140.00 | KENWOOD KENWOOD | TL-922 HF LINEAR AMP 1Kw (AS NEW!) TM-251E MOBILE TRANSCEIVER | | | DSP-599ZX TOP OF THE RANGE DSP UNIT DSP-9+ | £124 |
| MERITRON | AL-1500 1.5KW AMPLIFIER | £1.499.00 | KENWOOD | TM-255E 2m MULTI-MODE MOBILE TRANSCEIVER | 2140.00 | TOKYO HY-POWER | HL-166V 6m 160W LINEAR AMPLIFIER | £17 |
| OR | AR-3030 HF / VHF RECEIVER Inc converter VHF | | | TRANSCEIVER | £400.00 | TOKYO HY-POWER | HL-30V 2M and 25W AMPLIFIER | £74 |
| OR | converter VHFAR-3030 HF RECEIVER | £450.00 | KENWOOD | TM-455E 70CM MULTIMODE MOBILE TRANSCEIVER | £405.00 | TOKYO HY-POWER TONNA | HL-37V LINEAR AMPLIFIER7000E TERMINAL | £60 |
| OR OR | AR-7030 TOP RECEIVER | £550.00 | KENWOOD | TM-D700E 2/70 DHALBAND APRS Built- | | TRIO | TR-2300 2M PORTABLE TRANSCEIVER | £130 |
| OR | AR-7030 TOP RECEIVER AR-7030+HF RECEIVER (With AM Filter, Opt Encoder) AR-8000 WIDE BAND RECEIVER | ical | | in TNC TRANSCEIVER | £375.00 | TRIO | TR-9130 2M ALL MODE TRANSCEIVER | £250 |
| OB | Encoder) | £650.00 | KENWOOD | TM-V7E MOBILE TRANSCEIVER | £290.00 | TRIO | TS-940SAT HF TRANSCEIVER | |
| OR OR | AR-X200 mk1 WIDE BAND RECEIVER | +230.00 | | TR-9000 2m MULTIMODE MOBILE TRANSCEIVER | £240.00 | WELZ WELZ | AC-38M 200W MOBILE MATCHING NETWO SP-15M SWR & POWER METER | |
| EARCAT | UBC-860XLT SCANNER UBC-9000XLT RECEIVER LP-50 50MHz 50 Watt AMPLIFIER | £120.00 | KENWOOD | TS-120 HF SOLID STATE MOBILE | £225.00 | YAESU | FC-102 1.2KW ATU WITH 4 WAY SWITCHIN | |
| EARCAT | UBC-9000XLT RECEIVER | £199.00 | KENWOOD | TS-430 HF BASE / MOBILE INCLUDUNG FM | 1£375.00 | £200.00 | | |
| NOS AIWA | LP-50 50MHz 50 Watt AMPLIFIER CN-1001 AUTO ANTENNA TUNER | £99.00 | KENWOOD KENWOOD | TS-450SAT HF TRANSCEIVERTS-50S SMALL HF MOBILE 100W | £600.00 | YAESU £175.00 | FC-20 AUTO ANTENNA TUNER FOR 847/FT | 100 |
| AIWA | CNW-518 1KW AUTO ATU | £140.00 | KENWOOD | TS-570D HF/ DSP/ATU_MOBILE-BASE | | YAESU | FC-757AT FULLY AUTOMATIC ATU | £180 |
| AIWA | NS-660P SWR &PWR MTR | £40.00 | | TS-570D HF/ DSP/ATU MOBILE-BASE TRANSCEIVER TS-570DGE HF DSP BASE / MOBILE TRANSCEIVER | £650.00 | YAESU | FC-902 ATU 500W | £140 |
| AIWA | CN-540 SWR &PWR MTR | | KENWOOD | TS-570DGE HF DSP BASE / MOBILE | 0705.00 | YAESU | FEX-767-2M 2m MODULE for the FT-767GX | |
| AIWA ATONG | CN-630 SWR &PWR MTRFL3 FILTER | £75.00 | KENWOOD | TS-711F 2m MULTIMODE RASE | t/25.00 | YAESU YAESU | FEX-767-6M 6m MODULE for the FT-767GX FEX-767-70CM 70cms MODULE for the FT-70 | ±140 67GX |
| ATONG | D-70 MORSE TUTORAUTOMATIC RF SPEECH PROCESSOR | £25.00 | KENWOOD | TS-711E 2m MULTIMODE BASE TRANSCEIVER TS-790E 2m / 70cm MULTIMODE BASE TRANSCEIVER | £399.00 | £150.00 | | |
| ATONG | AUTOMATIC RF SPEECH PROCESSOR | £80.00 | KENWOOD | TS-790E 2m / 70cm MULTIMODE BASE | | YAESU | FL-2100Z HF AMPLIFIER | |
| ATONG IAWA | FL-2 FILTER | £60.00 | KENWOOD | TRANSCEIVER | £799.00 | YAESU YAESU | FP-107E POWER SUPPLY | £120 |
| RAKE | PS-304 PSU 20ampR7 HF RECEIVER | £550.00 | KENWOOD | TS-811E 70cms MULTIMODE BASE TRANSCEIVER | £399.00 | YAESU | FP700 POWER SUPPLYFP-757HD HEAVY DUTY POWER SUPPLY | £100 |
| RAKE | SW-2 HF RECEIVER | £299.00 | KENWOOD | TS-830S HF TRANSCEIVER | £325.00 | YAESU | FRG-100 HF RECEIVER | £300 |
| AIRHAVEN | RD-500 WIDE BAND RECEIVER | £575.00 | KENWOOD | TS-850SAT HF BUILT IN ATU EXCELLENT | | YAESU | FRG-7 HF RECEIVER | £99 |
| ARRIS OWES | RF-590 TOP CLASS RECEIVERCTU8 ANTENNA TUNER UNIT | £2,230.00 £20.00 | KENWOOD | TRANSCEIVERTS-870SAT HF/DSP-IF-100W BUILT IN ATU | | YAESU YAESU | FRG-9600 60-905MHz All mode Receiver | £220 £190 |
| COM | AT-180 AUTOMATIC ANTENNA TUNER | £200.00 | REITHOOD | TRANSCEIVER | £999.00 | YAESU | FT-1000MK5 200W DSP HF TRANSCEIVER. | £2,600 |
| COM | FL-100 500Hz CW NARROW FILTER | £40.00 | KENWOOD | TS-940SAT HF BASE STATION BUILTIN ATU | | YAESU | FT-1000MP AC HF BASE DSP TRANSCEIVE | R(Late |
| COM COM | FL-222 1.8KHz SSB NARROW FILTERFL-223 1.9KHz SSB FILTER | £100.00 | KENWOOD | (CLASSIC!) | £700.00 | serial no) | £1,550.00 FT-1000MP DC BASE TRANSCEIVER | C1 200 |
| COM | FL-52A 500Hz CW NARROW FILTER | £99.00 | KENWOOD | (CLASSIC) / TS-950SD HF/150W DSP BASE TRANSCEIVER TS-950SDX HF/150W MOSFET DSP TRANSCEIVER | £1,100.00 | YAESU | FT-101 TRANSCEIVER MINT! | £200 |
| COM | FL-53A 250Hz CW FILTER | £100.00 | KENWOOD | TS-950SDX HF/150W MOSFET DSP | | YAESU | FT-101ZDmk111 HF TRANSCEIVER inc FM . | £37 |
| COM | IC-2100H 2M MOBILE TRANSCEIVERIC-229H 2M/ 50W/ FM Mobile TRANSCEIVE | £150.00 | KENIMOOD | TRANSCEIVER | £1,749.00 | YAESU YAESU | FT-23R HANDY TRANSCEIVERFT-2500M MOBILE TRANSCEIVER | £89 |
| COM | IC-229H ZW/ 30W/ FM Mobile TRANSCEIVER | £140.00 | KENWOOD KENWOOD | TSU-8 TONE SQUELCH UNIT VFO-120VFO-180 EXTERNAL VFO | £50.00 | YAESU | FT-290RMK1 2M ALL MODE TRANSCEIVER | £190 R £180 |
| COM | IC-251 2m MULTIMODE TRANSCEIVER | £295.00 | KENWOOD | VFO-180 EXTERNAL VFO | £75.00 | YAESU | FT-290RMK1 Includes Bracket + FL-2010 LIN | |
| COM | IC-275E 25W TRANSCEIVER | £525.00 | KENWOOD | VS-1 VOICE SYTHESISER | £30.00 | £275.00 | | |
| COM COM | IC-290 2m MULTIMODE TRANSCEIVER IC-2KL AUTOMATIC LINEAR AMPLIFIER | £240.00 | KENWOOD KENWOOD | VS-2 VOICE SYTHESISERYG-455CN-1 270Hz CW CRYSTAL FILTER | £100.00 | TD A NICCEIVED | FT-290RMK11 MOBILE 2M MULTIMODE £275.00 | |
| COIVI | + PSH | £999.00 | KENWOOD | YK-88A-1 AM FILTER | £40.00 | YAESU | FT-3000M 2m 70W MOBILE TRANSCEIVER | £17 |
| COM | IC-490E 70cms MULTIMODE MOBILE | | KENWOOD | YK-88C-1 500Hz CW NARROW FILTER | £40.00 | YAESU | FT-41R HANDY TRANSCEIVER | |
| COM | TRANSCEIVERIC-725 HF TRANSCEIVER | | KENWOOD | YK-88CN1 270Hz CW FILTER 8.83MHz IF | £40.00 | YAESU | FT-470 DUALBAND HANDIE TRANSCEIVE | R£150 |
| COM | IC-728 HF TRANSCEIVER | £3/3.00 | KENWOOD | YK-88S-1 2.4KHz SSB NARROW FILTER 8.83MHz IF | £40.00 | YAESU TRANSCEIVER | FT-690MK11 6M MULTIMODE MOBILE £295.00 | |
| COM | IC-728 HF TRANSCEIVER IC-735 HF TRANSCEIVER IC-737 HF BASE BUILT IN ATU 100W | £400.00 | KENWOOD | YK-88SN 1.8K SSB FILTER (TS-440 /R5000) | £40.00 | YAESU | FT-7 MINT! CONDITION | |
| COM | IC-737 HF BASE BUILT IN ATU 100W | £595.00 | KENWOOD | YK-88SN-1 1.8KHz SSB NARROW FILTER 8.83MHz IF | | YAESU | FT-726R 2 / 70 / 6m TRANSCEIVER | £57 |
| COM COM | IC-756 HF / 6m All Band TransceiverIC-765 HF BASE TRANSCEIVER | £999.00 £950.00 | KENWOOD | 8.83MHz IFPS-430 POWER SUPPLY | £40.00 | YAESU YAESU | FT-730R 70CM MOBILE TRANSCEIVER FT-736R 2m / 70cm TRANSCEIVER | £120 |
| COM | IC-821H VHF / UHF MULTIMODE | 2550.00 | KENWOOD | TM-G707E MOBILE TRANSCEIVER | £220.00 | YAESU | FT-736R 2m / 70cm TRANSCEIVER FT-736R 2m / 70cm / 6m TRANSCEIVER | £750 |
| | IC-821H VHF / UHF MULTIMODE TRANSCEIVER | £699.00 | MCL | MCL1100 EASY READER | £75.00 | YAESU | FT-7400 70cm MOBILE TRANSCEIVER | £160 |
| COM | IC-R10 HANDY WIDE BAND RECEIVER | 0.550.00 | MFJ | MFJ-1020B INDOOR ACTIVE ANTENNA | | | FT-747GX HF TRANSCEIVER | |
| COM | IC-R7000 RECEIVER MINT! CONDITION IC-R72 RECEIVER | £350.00 £399.00 | MFJ MFJ | MFJ-1278 MULTI MODE DATA CONTROLLE MFJ-462B MULTI READER | | YAESU YAESU | FT-757MK1GX HF TRANSCEIVER FT-767GX HF BASE 100watt built-in ATU | |
| COM | IC-R75 HF / 6m RECEIVER | £475.00 | MFJ | MFJ-462B MULTI-READER | £100.00 | YAESU | FT-790R 70CM MULTIMODE MOBILE TRAN | |
| COM | IC-T81E QUAD BAND HANDY | | MFJ | MFJ-956 SWR AND ANTENNA TUNER | | £225.00 | | |
| COM | IC-T8E HANDY TRANSCEIVERIC-W21E HANDY TRANSCEIVER | | MFJ | MFJ-986 ANTENNA TUNER | £195.00 | YAESU | FT-7B HF 50 W MOBILE TRANSCEIVER | |
| COM COM | PS-15 20A POWER SUPPLY FITS ALL ICOM | £199.00 | MFJ MFJ | MFJ-989 3KW ROLLER COASTER ATU MFJ-959B RECEIVER ANTENNA TUNER | £230.00 | YAESU £375.00 | FT-80C 0-30MHz COMMERCIAL TRANSCEI | VER |
| COM | PS-85 POWER SUPPLY | £175.00 | MICROSET | PT-135 POWER SUPPLY | £80.00 | YAESU | FT-840 HF MOBILE TRANSCEIVER | £450 |
| COM | PS-85 POWER SUPPLYSP-21 LOUDSPEAKER, BOXED | £55.00 | | LES MML-144/100 2m 100W LINEAR | | YAESU | FT-847 HF / 2 / 6 / 70cm BASE TRANSCEIVE | R .£999 |
| COM | UT-102 VOICE SYTHESISERUT-84 TONE SQUELCH UNIT | | MICDOWAVE MODUL | AMPLIFIER LES MML-144/50S 2m 50W LINEAR AMPLIFII | £129.00 | YAESU | FT-900AT HF/ DETACHABLE FRONT BUILT | 'IN AT |
| COM | AT-120 ANTENNA TUNER | £200.00 | MICROWAVE MODUL | LES 28/144 TRANSVERTER 28/144 £125.00 | £125.00 | £650.00 YAESU | FT-980 HF TRANSCEIVER | £49 |
| COM | IC-R71E RECEIVER | £399.00 | NAIGAI | LES 28/144 TRANSVERTER 28/144 £125.00 NAG-144XL 2m 400W PEP LINEAR | 2.25.00 | YAESU | FT-ONE HF BASE TRANSCEIVER | £450 |
| RC | NRD-535 HF RECEIVER | £600.00 | | AMPLIFIER | £325.00 | YAESU | FTV-901 TRANSVERTER Inc 2m Mod | £16 |
| ANTRONICS | KAM PLUS TNC | £220.00 | OPTOECLECTRONICS | S SCOUT FREQUENCY COUNTER | 0220 | YAESU | MD-1 DESK MICROPHONE | £7 |
| ANTRONICS ENWOOD | KP-3 TNLAT-250 AUTOMATIC ANTENNA TUNER | £89.00 | PAC RATT | Inc MEMORIES PIC-232 Multimode, dual port data controller | £220.00 | YAESU YAESU | MD-1 DESK MICROPHONE. SP-5 LOUDSPEAKER Including Audio Filters SP-767 LOUDSPEAKER Including Audio Filter SP-88 LOUDSPEAKER Including Audio Filter SP-980 LOUDSPEAKER Including Audio Filter SP-980 LOUDSPEAKER Including Audio Filter | £100 |
| ENWOOD | AT-50 AUTO ANTENNA TUNER | £175.00 | PAC RAIT PACCOM | TNC-320 TNCTNC-320 TNC | £1/5.00 £90.00 | YAESU | SP-8 LOUDSPEAKER Including Audio Filters | £100 |
| ENWOOD | AT-50 AUTO ATU | £175.00 | PANASONIC | DR-49 RECEIVER | £125.00 | YAESU | SP-980 LOUDSPEAKER Including Audio Filte | rs£5 |
| ENWOOD | DFC-230 FREQUENCY CONTROLLERPS-20 10A POWER SUPPLY FITS TR-9130 ET | | QM 70 | 28/144 TRANSVERTER | £100.00 | YAESU | V A-3R 2 / /U / 0 HANDIE 3W | £220 |
| ENWOOD | | C 255 00 | SAGRA | AMP-600 2M 1KW PEP MAINS AMPLIFIER. | £750.00 | YAESU | XF-114SN 2KHz SSB FILTER | £6 |

This time Rev. **George Dobbs** G3RJV tells us he's got "Some more minimalist ideas" sent "From Russia with love". **Intrigued? Find** out more after you've read this month's appropriate quotation!

"In dwelling, live close to the ground. In thinking, keep to the simple".

Tao Te Ching

ast month's column looked at a very minimalist idea for a transceiver. As the editor of Sprat, the journal of the G QRP Club, I'm lucky enough to be sent circuit ideas by many avid Amateur Radio constructors. They are the sort of people who enjoy trying out and building ideas and sharing them with others.

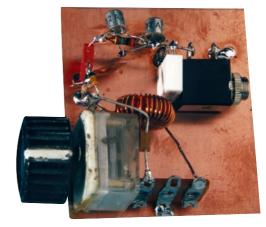
Some of the most interesting projects are the simplest ideas - the ideas for doing the most with the least. Many of the simplest suggestions come from Radio Amateurs who live in countries where commercially made Amateur Radio equipment is hard to come by, or simply just too expensive.

Many of the ideas have come from G QRP Club members in Eastern Europe. One such contributor has been Oleg Borodin RV3GM. It was Oleg who designed the Micro-80 transceiver, a very simple, but ingenious, c.w. transceiver for 3.5MHz.

The Micro-80 Circuit

The Micro-80's circuit is shown in Fig. 1. It was this circuit that led to the Pixie transceiver, a design that is been much built in the USA and even turned into a kit. You may remember that I discussed the Pixie in this column for June 1997.

Incidentally, the circuit in Fig. 1, originally used Russian transistors but almost any generic types would work. In fact Tr1 and Tr2 often appeared with 2N2222A transistors in the Pixie version, although some constructors used a more beefy device for Tr2.



"From Russia With Love." This month George Dobbs G3RJV discuss a minimalist transmitter-receiver project based on the work of Russian QRP enthusiast Oleg RV3GM.

In practice all the transistors, Tr-4 could be the same, or similar, bipolar devices. Inductor L1 was a suitable value to tune the band.

As a transmitter, the operation is simple and starts with a crystal controlled oscillator, Tr1, feeding a power amplifier, Tr2. When the key is depressed Tr2 conducts and delivers the r.f. power to the antenna via the tuned circuit.

The receiver however is rather more cunning! When the key is lifted, the oscillator remains running and feeding a signal to Tr3.

Now, when you sit back and think, you'll remember that a transistor is really just a couple of diodes physically set back-to-back and the collector of Tr2 is still connected to the antenna. Thus Tr4 can function as a simple mixer - mixing the signals from the antenna with the local oscillator.

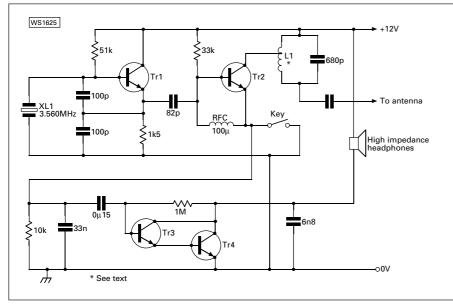
So, the circuit shown forms a direct conversion (DC) receiver and an audio signal can be taken from the emitter of Tr4. Very simple, even crude, but it does work! The transmitter output is low and the receiver is rudimentary but it's about the simplest transceiver possible. As the forerunner of the Pixie transceiver, Oleg's little circuit has its place in Amateur Radio history.

Recently Oleg reminded me of another circuit he sent in to Sprat some years ago. This was a minimalist receiver for the ONER transmitter

Another Famous Design

The ONER is another famous simple design. It came from George Burt GM3OXX, and was a transmitter that could be built on a one inch square printed circuit board (p.c.b.). The ONER has been a kit in the Kanga Products range for many years and hundreds of them have been built. Some have produced amazing results and I've worked the USA using a ONER on 14MHz!

| | Band (MHz) | C1, 7 (pF) | C3, 5 (pF) | L2,6 (turns) | L4 (turns) | Core | Wire Dia. mm (s.w.g.) |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|--------------------------|
| | 3.5 | 470 | 1200 | 25 | 27 | T37-2 | 0.38 (28) |
| | 7.0 | 270 | 680 | 19 | 21 | T37-6 | 0.46 (26) |
| | 10.1 | 270 | 560 | 19 | 20 | T37-6 | 0.46 (26) |
| | 14.0 | 180 | 390 | 16 | 17 | T37-6 | 0.56 (24) |
| L | | | | | | | WT1629 |



• Fig. 1: The Micro-80's circuit by Oleg RV3GM, which led to the Pixie transceiver, a design that has been much • Table 1: Low-pass filter designs with values, based upon the built in the USA and even turned into a kit (see text).

W3NQN 'standard value capacitor' low-pass filter data (see text).



It may be that you have a ONER transmitter laying around on a shelf somewhere and want to try Oleg's little receiver with it. If not, I've offered a stripped down version of the ONER in Fig. 2.

The version shown in Fig. 2 is not designed for oneinch square construction but for bread-boarding or ugly-construction to produce a simple transmitter based on the original ONER circuit. In itself, it's simple way to put a couple of watts out on an Amateur band.

The circuit is just a bipolar transistor crystal oscillator driving a m.o.s.f.et power amplifier. I have quoted the 2N2222A for the oscillator...but almost any suitable 'gainy' bipolar device would do the job.

You'll see that the crystal oscillator also includes a variable (or trimmer) capacitor. This is provided to allow limited tuning range as a VXO (Variable Crystal Oscillator).

In operation the oscillator is directly coupled to the VN10K m.o.s.f.e.t. device. The r.f. load for the m.o.s.f.e.t. is a home-made radio frequency choke (r.f.c.). It consists of ten turns of small gauge enamelled wire (about 32s.w.g.) wound through a small ferrite Bead.

The r.f. signal from the m.o.s.f.e.t. is fed via a coupling capacitor to a basic low-pass filter for harmonic rejection. (values shown here are for 7MHz band).

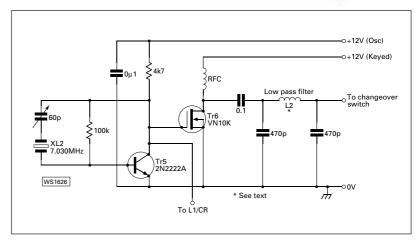
Keying Transistor

The original ONER circuit also included a keying transistor - a *pnp* transistor switch which keyed the 12V supply to the m.o.s.f.e.t. This allowed one side of the key to be connected to ground.

My simpler version, shown here, just keys the 12V supply. I've also taken the oscillator and amplifier supplies to separate points. This allows the oscillator to be run alone to drive the receiver. (Anyone wishing to only try Oleg's simple receiver could just build the oscillator part of Fig. 2).

Although Fig. 2 does represent a complete transmitter, it only gives a watt or two of r.f. output. Also, you should be aware that the low-pass filter is probably not enough to comply with regulations.

To help, **Table 1** shows a better low-pass filter with values, based upon the W3NQN 'standard value capacitor' low-pass filter data. These are seven-element filters and the parts are numbered sequentially through the filter. Values are given to use the transmitter on any band from 3.5 to 14MHz.



decoupler and feeds a two transistor (Darlington Pair) audio amplifier.

A pair of high impedance headphones is required on the output. However, readers might like to experiment with a matching transformer to a pair of low impedance headphones.

Again we are dealing with the ultra simple - **but it does work!** The little receiver circuit could be used over a range of bands with any suitable local oscillator source.

The tuned circuit has to cover the required band. To enable this, I suggest a 350pF or 500pF variable capacitor for the tuning

control.

The capacitor could be culled from an old medium wave a.m. receiver. With this amount of capacitance swing, a suitable inductor for L2 could tune more than one band.

Try using 35 turns of 28s.w.g. enamelled wire on

a T50-2 core for L2, with L1 being about 12 turns wound over the ground end of L2. This should tune over the range from $3.5\ \rm to\ 14MHz.$

Oleg's project may not give you the best Amateur bands receiver in the world! On the other hand it should not cost much, if anything, and it can be built in less than an hour. So, get that soldering iron on and enjoy building the project!

 Fig. 2: A stripped down version of the ONER.
 The version shown here is not designed for oneinch square construction

 as first published in Sprat - but for breadboarding or uglyconstruction (see text).

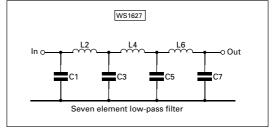


 Fig. 3: Seven element low-pass filter design using information in Table 1 (see text).

Oleg's Receiver Circuit

Armed with a ONER transmitter, either an original ONER or the version shown in Fig 2, we can now move on to Oleg's receiver circuit. The circuit is shown in Fig. 4 and this is truly minimalist stuff!

The receiver is a 'something for nothing' circuit which is best built with junk box parts. Buying new components for this circuit would almost destroy its validity!

The receiver circuit (Fig.4) begins with a single tuned circuit L2 and a variable capacitor with a link coupling L1. On receive the signals are fed to the top of L2 and the oscillator from the ONER feeds

to L1. This oscillator signal is taken from the collector of the oscillator stage of the ONER, as shown in Fig. 2.

The mixer, or product-detector, is a single diode – any high speed switching silicon diode will do the job. This has a load resistor and a one capacitor r.f.

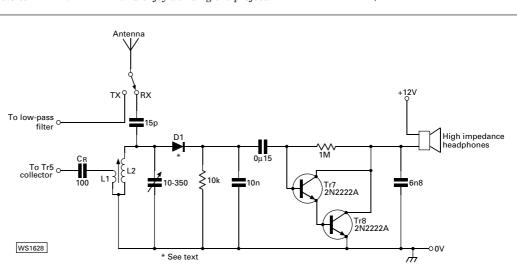


 Fig. 4: The ONER receiver conversion project...really minimalist stuff says G3RJV!(see text).

Value&Vintage

The faint smell of Brasso metal polish and the spare vintage cavity magnetron on the counter tells us Charles Miller's on duty in the shop.... continuing his memories of his early radio days.

elcome to the *PW* vintage 'wireless shop' where I now continue my story from where I left off in the April issue, dressed in RAF blue in Ventnor on the Isle of Wight. The episode at Ventnor (and my time in the RAF) was, of course, still in the future at the time I built my first oscilloscope. National Service was, admittedly, a small black cloud on the distant horizon but those of us who would be eligible for it tended to hope that it might be abolished before we reached our 18th birthdays.

The then Liberal
Party had announced
that if it came to
power it would indeed
tear up the National
Service Act, and
multitudes of young
men hoped most
earnestly that it might
triumph if a snap
General Election were
to be called. It wasn't
and the Liberals
didn't!

A second method of avoiding the call to duty was to have yourself taken on as an apprentice by your employer. This action brought about a five or seven-year deferment, by the end of which time there would be an even better chance of National Service becoming just history.

In fact, my boss had intimated to me that he intended to sign me on as an apprentice, and since I was daft enough to

believe him I pushed the call-up threat to the back of my mind. In any case, there were lots of better things to think about because in the late 1940s British radio manufacturers were producing some very interesting sets indeed.

In fact, had we known it at the time, we were witnessing a sort of final flowering of the industry before it withered away over the next decade. But that thought never troubled anyone at the time.

All Sizes

Late 1940s sets came in all sizes from tiny to enormous. An idea imported from America was that of 'personal' receivers, small sets that could be carried about and used almost anywhere for private listening.

One of the earliest and, in its way, most ingenious designs was the Romac Handbag set, Fig. 1,which

looked just like that with a black body and shoulder strap. The 'works' of the set and the batteries were contained in the body whilst the strap doubled as the aerial - it actually was a length of flat multi-core cable which acted like the frame aerial in conventional portables.

The set's price, however, was not small - with purchase tax the set cost £21, or about nine weeks' wages as far as I was concerned. Thus when one of our junior shop assistants began ostentatiously to carry around a Romac it caused the rest of us to harbour deep suspicions.

First, from where or how had he obtained the money to buy it? Secondly, because young men definitely did not carry handbags in those days, was he perhaps of the Bulgarian tendency, as Auberon Waugh used delicately to put it?

Less likely to provoke sideways glances at their owners were the Marconi P17B and Ever-Ready

Model B personal sets. These resembled folding cameras and thus might safely be carried by red-blooded males. The prices, too, sorted the men from the boys since both sets cost around £17.

If it was difficult to tell which set was which of the two brands, that was not surprising, since both of them were produced by Plessey, Ltd. In fact, the latter firm made most of the personal sets sold at the time with the honourable exception of the Vidor CN353.

However, my comments aren't intended to disparage the Plessey offerings because they were, like all that firm's products, well designed and constructed. It was

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Fig.1: The Romac Model 126 'Personal' receiver - much admired by Charles Miller over the years, he recently acquired one much to his delight (see text).

just that by comparison the Vidor was a little masterpiece, put together like a well-made watch.

As instances, its tiny two-gang tuning condenser was built up by hand, using tiny grub screws. And both the condenser and the volume control were operated via slow-motion drives whose ingenuity and simplicity have never been equalled.

When an example of the Vidor arrived in the show-room we in the service department gazed upon it with awe, but not for long. Within a couple of days of its arrival some light-fingered individual nicked it, and I personally never saw another until earlier this very year, when one turned up at a *Radiophile* Special Auction.

I couldn't resist buying the Vidor for myself and apart from a little corrosion around the l.t. battery holder it's almost as good as when it left the factory. I do hope that it isn't the actual example that



disappeared all those years ago, but I can't help wondering...?

Mighty Radiograms

At the other end of the size scale were the mighty radio-gramophones built by Decca, EMI and RGD. These weren't just **big**, they were **colossal**!

When I tell you that our showroom, a converted dance hall, had to be approached via two flights of stairs with an awkward centre landing, and that someone (guess who) usually had to lug such behemoths up from the street below, you'll appreciate that we viewed them with mixed feelings.

Maybe I'd been on holiday when a 'Beau Decca' arrived because I'd not seen it coming. One morning, pounding up those stairs on my way to work, I heard the then familiar sound of *The Dream of Olwen*, a piano-piece used as the theme music for a currently popular film called *Take My Life*.

How on earth, I asked myself, had they contrived to get a piano up into the showroom? I was totally amazed when I found that the sound was in fact coming from the Beau Decca; it was the first and only time I have heard anything so completely life-like.

Certainly the reproduction of RGD's current offering (model 1046G) although it was extremely good, could nowhere near match the Beau Decca's despite costing around £100 more. Of course, the Beau Decca had the advantage of being equipped with the latest Decca moving-coil pick-up, which in conjunction with the Decca 'FFRR' recording system gave astonishingly good quality from 78r.p.m. records over a range from 40c/s (Hz) to 14,000c/s (kHz).

Liked To Boast?

Mind you, if you were of the type who liked to boast of how much you paid for things, the RGD won hands down at over £260. This, by the way, was just double what the firm had charged for its premier model of 1935, which had made it dearer than the contemporary Ford Model C two-door saloon car.

Carrying on the tradition, the 1046G cost more than the Ford 5 hundredweight (254kg) carrying capacity van which might have been used to deliver it to its owner. As it happened, the example in our showroom failed to attract a buyer until our employer, tried desperate measure to get rid of it.

The 1046G was put on show in the window of the retail shop downstairs (guess again who had to carry it) with a notice that its price was to be reduced by £10 a day until someone snapped it up. It had gone down to £180 when it was bought by an executive of a well-known oil company who lived locally in a fabulous Tudor manor house complete with a crystal-clear spring in the cellar which had never been known to dry up in hundreds of years. This we learned when (no prizes for guessing who was involved) we delivered the monster.

For all that, neither the Beau Decca nor the RGD 1046G came anywhere near the HMV Model 1612 for sheer size and price. The biggest set EMI ever made, the 1612 shown in **Fig. 1**, was a mammoth 16-valver with numerous wavebands and motor-driven tuning.

The 1612 weighed in at two and a half hundredweight (127kg) and cost, almost unbelievably, over £400. That was only for the radio, mind you; if you wanted to play records you had to pay a further £32 for the auto-changer unit and sacrifice the sliding drawer which otherwise held glasses ready for post-

prandial chota pegs*!

At a later stage one might be persuaded to fork out even more to have an f.m. adapter fitted, making the final total cost around £500. Mind you, if they had sold radio sets by weight the 1612 would have worked out at half the price of the Vidor CN353, at £1.85 per lb. and £3.50 per lb. respectively.

You certainly got a lot of cabinet for your money. The thing was five feet long, four feet high and would only just pass through a standard 29 inch door!

Incidentally - should anyone wish to snitch on me to our Prime Minister Mr. Blair's thought police for wilfully using Imperial measurements I would be pleased to supply them with a free road map to Sunderland, where they may go jump in the Tyne!



Fig. 2: The truly mammoth HMV 1612 radiogram. Charles Miller and colleagues did not enjoy delivering these massive units (see text for his full adventures!).

*Note: for those readers who are (unlike Charles) unfamiliar with the habits of the officer class in the former British Colonial Indian Army - a chota peg was usually a well travelled and equally well matured Scotch Whisky! Editor Sahib.

Losing A Fight!

Only once did I ever had to handle one of these 1612 sets, after losing a fight to get out of the job. The sheer bulk of the 1612 meant that a big van had to be used with a loading deck height of nearly three feet, and my companion and I found ourselves totally unable to lift it that high, even with the aid of the set's owner, a lady of formidable physique.

Fortunately, working nearby was a builder who happened to have by him a device used for moving pre-packed loads of bricks. He happily joined in the fray with an air of "I'll show them how it should be done" about him.

However, once we had manoeuvred the set onto the lifting device, and he'd started to raise it from the ground, he became visibly apprehensive, because the balance was far from perfect and it began to sway alarmingly. Regardless of the lady owner's feelings in the matter I said bluntly that if the set should start to topple our only option would be to make a run for it, since otherwise it would break our legs.

It seemed an age before the perspiring builder jacked the thing up high enough for the rest of us gently to shunt it forward sufficiently to get about four inches of the cabinet onto the deck of the van. From then on we were able to move it an inch or two at a time until all, as the old hymn has it, was safely gathered in, and never were thanks for this achievement uttered more sincerely!

Of course, one problem still remained: the set was going to have to be off-loaded at the end of our return trip. But dear reader you'll not be surprised to hear that I took the easy way out!

Instead of heading back to the workshop I drove directly to the premises of a friend of mine who had a great snorting beast of a diesel-engined fork lift truck. So, amidst billowing clouds of sulphurous exhaust fumes the 1612 was eased out onto a pallet for al fresco examination and for easy re-loading for its next journey. Mercifully, I was spared that experience!

VHF DXER

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REPORTS & INFORMATION BY THE LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.

or over a decade I've been trying to explain to readers that there are v.h.f. propagation modes that exist way above the troposphere. However, I'm afraid the message is not getting through to some people!

Putting it simply, there are still operators who think that long distance v.h.f. contacts can only be made when the weather patterns are favourable and high pressure dominates the country. The reason I'm mentioning this is that I recently spoke to a station who informed me that he had worked into Zimbabwe. I thought he meant on the 50MHz band but I was mistaken. He claimed to have achieved this remarkable contact on the 430MHz band whilst operating mobile through a local f.m. voice repeater! To back up his claim he asserted that there was a high pressure weather system extending a long way south of the UK at the time.

I believe that the misunderstanding lies with operators who only use the v.h.f and u.h.f. bands for local f.m. communication. Occasionally they might hear a station further away on a simplex channel or open up a repeater in another area.

It's true that tropospheric conditions has caused this extension in the working distance but these enhancements are the **only** propagation mode they ever hear. Consequently some operators think that's the 'be all and end all' of v.h.f. communications.

However, if you switch to a weak-signal mode such as c.w. or s.s.b. you'll soon discover that there is life beyond the

troposphere! It's the propagation modes in the ionosphere where the real DX contacts can be made.

Up in the E-layer, at a height of around 100km, there are transitory 'mirrors' that can reflect your v.h.f. signal up to 2000km or further away. This is where you'll find auroral back-scatter (Au), auroral-E (Au-Es), Sporadic-E (Sp-E) and meteor scatter (m.s.) propagation. Even higher, in the F-layer at around 400km, you'll find modes such as trans-equatorial propagation (t.e.p.) and F2-layer propagation

(t.e.p.) into Africa were interspersed with numerous periods of auroral back-scatter propagation enabling contacts to be made over large areas of Europe. On the 144MHz band and higher frequencies there was very little tropospheric propagation reported. However, the ionospheric auroral conditions did have a major impact on the 144 and 430MHz bands and surprisingly on the 1296MHz band.

I'll turn first to your reports regarding t.e.p. on the 50MHz band and then deal with reports detailing the auroral openings during April.

THIS MONTH DAVID BUTLER GAASR HAS REPORTS OF TRANS-EQUATORIAL PROPAGATION AND AURORAL BACK-SCATTER OPENINGS ON THE VHF BANDS.

that can produce world-wide contacts on the 50MHz band.

So please, next time you hear some longdistance v.h.f. signals don't automatically assume there's a bit of a 'lift' on because it happens to be sunny. The Sun's geomagnetic influences on the ionosphere are infinitely greater than the warming effect on the troposphere.

IONOSPHERIC PROPAGATION

Propagation on the 50MHz band during April was very similar to that which occurred in March. Days of trans-equatorial propagation

There were at least ten days during the period when openings to southern Africa were reported from the UK. Some of these were quite brief but events on April 2, 9 and 13 were very good.

The station of **Jamie Ashford GW7SMV** (Monmouthshire - IO81) reported that the 50MHz band was open at his QTH on and off between 1045-1615UTC on April 2. He mentioned hearing or working the stations of ZS4NS, ZS6AXT, ZS6DX, ZS6JON, ZS6WB, ZS6TWB (beacon) and G0KZG/MM.

Andy Adams G0KZG/MM on board the RRS *Charles Darwin* has been sending me daily reports of his 50MHz activity. He left Southampton in March and arrived in Durban, South Africa on April 12 having sailed via Madeira, Tenerife and Cape Town.

Leaving Durban the RRS *Charles Darwin* sailed via Reunion Island (FR) arriving at Mauritius (3B8) on April 23. The next working area was in the vicinity of Rodriguez Island (3B9) and the Agalega Islands (3B6).

Paul G7KES joined the ship in Durban and helps Andy out with the operating when he can. They are using a Yaesu FT-847 transceiver running 100W on h.f. and the 50MHz band.

The antennas are a Capco loop fitted at the front end of the ship for h.f. and a 5-element F9FT Yagi for 50MHz at the stern of the ship. Both antennas had to be positioned to minimise r.f. interference rather than for good take-off positions.

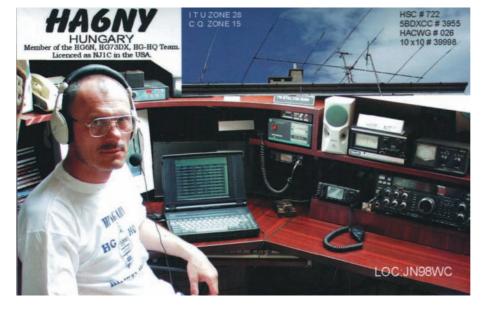


 Fig.1: Hungarian DXer HA6NY worked in the recent aurora on the 144MHz band.



At the time of writing this (April 30) Andy had worked 50 countries and made over 700 contacts on the 50MHz band. During the excellent t.e.p. opening on April 2 G0KZG/MM (JG28) located 545 nautical miles west of Walvis Bay (V5) made 193 QSO's with stations located in England, Guernsey, Wales, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. Phew!

SPARSE ACTIVITY

Unlike Europe, the activity on the 50MHz band in the African continent is very sparse. In many countries there may only be one or two active operators.

For example, V51KC (Namibia), Z22JE (Zimbabwe), 7Q7RM (Malawi) and 9J2BO (Zambia). There are more operators in South Africa (ZS) but you're more than likely to work the same half dozen or so active stations such as ZS6AVP, ZS6AXT, ZS6BTE, ZS6PJS, ZS6WB or ZS6XI.

From the UK the main catchment area during t.e.p. openings is the ZS6 call area in the Transvaal. It's only during the more intense openings that you will normally work other ZS call areas and perhaps some other rare DX morsel. One such opening on April 9 was quite unusual insofar that the only stations worked from central and southern England were V5/ZS4NS and ZS1AGE.

No other African stations were heard during the opening which lasted between 1425-1445UTC. The station of V5/ZS4NS (JG77) was operating from Namibia during a short expedition whereas ZS1AGF (JF96) is located near the Cape of Good Hope, right on the southern tip of the African continent.

One of the best t.e.p. openings during the month occurred on April 13. Although it only lasted for about one hour, from 1320UTC, signals were unbelievably strong. Stations located through much of England and Wales were heard making c.w. and s.s.b. contacts with operators in Mozambique (C9), Namibia and South Africa (ZS1, 4, 5 and 6 call areas).

At my QTH (Herefordshire - IO81) s.s.b. contacts were made with V5/ZS4NS, ZR6ZL, ZS6LU, ZS6PJS, ZS6WB and ZR1AEE (JF96) located in Cape Town at 9740km. **Tony Jones GW4VEQ** (Anglesey - IO73) reported contacts with the stations of C91CF in Mozambique and V5/ZS4NS. At 1350UTC he also contacted A45XR (Sultanate of Oman - LL93) on a really obscure beam-heading. Other notable DX worked on the 50MHz band during the month included the stations of FR1AN and FR1GZ (Reunion Is.) by GJ0NYG (Jersey - IN89) on April 14 and ZD7MY (St. Helena) at 1710UTC on April 20 by G3FPQ (IO91).

The first glimmer of the summer Sporadic-E (Sp-E) season was detected on April 23 although some stations claimed to have heard an event on the previous day. The confusion was caused by the Lyrids meteor shower which peaked during the morning of April 22. At frequencies as low as 50MHz it doesn't take

much additional ionisation, in this case from a meteor shower, to give the impression of a Sp-E opening.

There were two phases to the Sp-E opening on April 23. The first between 0925-1100UTC and the second between 1730-1800UTC. Both were in the same general direction, the Mediterranean area, and gave contacts for UK stations with operators in Italy (I), Sardinia (ISO), Croatia (9A) and Malta (9H). Some of the contacts included IA5/I2ADN operating from the Archipelago of Tuscany, ISOGQX, 9A3FT and 9H1AW, better known as Alan Wright GW3LDH operating from his holiday home.

CO AURORA!

Last time around I mentioned the tremendous auroral back-scatter event that occurred on Saturday March 31. The 50, 70 and 144MHz bands were open for over 12 hours during four distinct phases which occurred between the early morning and midnight.

On the 144MHz band c.w. and s.s.b. contacts were made with stations as far afield as Austria (OE), Croatia (9A), Czech Republic (OK), Hungary (HA), Italy (I), Kaliningrad (UA2), Latvia (YL), Lithuania (LY), Poland (SP), Slovakia (OM) and Slovenia (S5). It beats tropo extensions into Belgium, Germany and The Netherlands doesn't it!?

One report I missed last time around was a c.w. contact between the stations of G3LTF (IO91) and 9A2SB (JN95). Nothing particularly extraordinary about that except that the 1603km contact was made on the 430MHz band! The station of 9A2SB was only running 100W and a single Yagi apparently.

During April there were numerous auroral openings on the v.h.f. bands. Most were fairly weak but there were two really good events that took place on April 11 and 22. The opening on April 11 commenced in the UK around 1600UTC and continued on and off for over eight hours.

At my QTH I detected the on-set of the aurora almost immediately. Between 1614-1850UTC I made 61 c.w. contacts on the 144MHz band with stations in 16 countries. The following very small selection of contacts should give you a flavour of what can be worked on the 144MHz band when using this exciting ionospheric mode.

Over 30 QSO's were completed with paths in excess of 1000km and amongst these were the stations of HA1BC (1515km), HA6NQ (1680km), HA6NY at 1685km (shown in the QSL card, **Fig. 1**), LY2SA(Lithuania - 1740km) and LY2WR (1790km). Other contacts included HB9DAX, I1DMP, IZ2CPO, LA4YGA, OE3JPC, OE5KE, OK2AB, OZ1DD, SM4IVE, SM5BUZ, SP2CNW, 9A1CAL and 9A2RD.

WORLD FIRST

What was probably the World's first authenticated auroral contact on the 1296MHz band took place during the event on April 11 2001. Incidentally, I've been waiting exactly one Solar Cycle since I first reported a one-way contact 11 years ago between the UK and Hungary.

The stations of SM3AKW (JP92) and SM5QA (JO89) exchanged 33A reports during the c.w. contact which took place at 1650UTC. Signals over the 360km path exhibited a +5kHz doppler shift and sounded quite broad. The antenna equipment at SM3AKW consisted of a 2.3m parabolic dish whereas SM5QA was using a group of four 26-element quadloop Yagis.

Both stations were running 500W output on the 1296MHz band. They had been trying for this unusual contact for many years and are to be congratulated for their tenacity and perseverance.

Another good auroral backscatter opening occurred on Sunday 22 April when the Earth's magnetic field was unsettled following a day of minor storming. The magnetic storm began when the interplanetary magnetic field near our planet turned south, a condition that renders Earth's magnetosphere vulnerable to solar wind gusts.

The Lyrids meteor shower also peaked on April 22 but fortunately the auroral opening started approximately one hour after the Lyrids shower had disappeared below the horizon. The 50, 70 and 144MHz bands were open between 1400-1900UTC enabling many long-distance c.w. and s.s.b. contacts to be made around Europe. On the 144MHz band UK stations were heard making contacts with stations located as far away as Norway, Sweden, Kaliningrad (UA2), Latvia and Lithuania

Colin Smith GMOCLN (Midlothian - IO85) caught the last hour or so of the opening. Running a Trio TR-751E transceiver, a 100W amplifier and 14-element Yagi he made 19 contacts on the 144MHz band. His best DX included the stations of ON4YZ (818km), F6FAI (825km), F5HRY (891km), DK9TF (865km) and DF7OG (951km).

For a change I spent more time tuning around listening rather than staying on one frequency calling CQ. On the 50MHz band my c.w. contacts included the stations of LA6HL (JO28), LA8AV (JO59), OZ0XX (JO54) and OH3XA (KP21) at 1945km. Up on the 144MHz band I found LA2AB (JO59) 1209km, SM1FMT (JO97) 1505km and best DX of the day, RK2FWA (KO04) at 1580km. This station in Kaliningrad was very strong, peaking 59A and was heard to work many UK stations.

DEADLINES

That's it again for another month. We're now at the peak of the Sporadic-E season so I hope to receive many reports regarding the wonderful DX you've been working on the v.h.f. bands. Please forward your reports, comments or photographs to the address and by the date given at the top of the column.

Thanks for your letters and good luck with the DX See you again next month.

73, David G4ASR

HF HIGHLIGHTS

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REPORTS, INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS TO ME PLEASE BY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

his month I spent a few days onboard HMS *Belfast* in London operating **GB2RN** with fellow members of the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society. Members travel from far and wide to take part in this annual event.

During Easter week, the Bridge Wireless Office (BWO) is the scene of much activity and it is not unusual to find all four operating positions in use at the same time. Visiting members included Jurgen HB9ANE, Roger ON6WR, Harm PA3CTK, Ian VE2DOH and Colin GM6HGW the 'Master of Magical Mirth' who entertained our group with some of his illusions.

Visitors from all over the world were able to see first hand Amateur Radio in operation under the watchful eye of London Group chairman **Bob Wilson G0FEK**. The BWO as you would expect, is full of equipment, with many of the original receivers and transmitters in working order.

The Amateur station includes the Yaesu FT-726, 847 and 990 alongside a Kenwood TS-870. As a first class example of a Second World War warship, *Belfast* is well worth a visit. Further information on the RNARS can be found at www.rnars.org.uk and for HMS *Belfast* try www.hmsbelfast.org.uk

DX NEWS

On now to some DX news now starting with **Pierre HB9AMO** who will be in the Democratic

Republic of Congo. He will be operating as **9Q5BQ** and plans to stay until July. Pierre has already been worked with c.w. on 18 and 24MHz between 1400 and 1800UTC.

Those of you who need to work the Solomon Islands should have a listen on 24MHz where **Bernard H44MS** has been very active lately. Look for him between 24.937 and 24.955MHz around 1000UTC.

My holidays are coming and I will be on

PROPAGATION REPORT

Mixed band conditions again this month according to **Don McLean G3NOF** in Yeovil, Somerset who say's "At the time of writing band conditions have been very good one minute and extremely poor the next. Often what appears to be a dead band would have good DX on it with very few takers! 28MHz was particularly strange, often open in the early evening while 18 to 24MHz had faded

CARL MASON GWOVSW PRESENTS A BUMPER BACKED EDITION THANKS TO YOUR REPORTS AND ENTHUSIASTIC OPERATING THIS MONTH.

the island of **Rhodes EU-001** operating as **SV5/GW0VSW** between 16 and 30 June. The rig will be an IC706 with dipole antennas. Activity, family permitting, will be mainly c.w. on all bands 7 – 28MHz around 0500 and 1600UTC.

A Danish special event station **OZ2OOI** will be operating until the end of the year on all bands celebrating the clubs 70th anniversary A special numbered QSL card will be issued to those who work the station or send in a short wave listeners report. Please QSL via the bureau or direct to P**OB 351, DK-8900 Randers, Denmark**.

out. Good openings to pacific areas over the North Pole were heard between 0800 and 1000UTC especially on 14 and 18MHz".

YOUR REPORTS

By far the largest log received so far is that of **Roy Walker GOTAK** in Cleveleys near Blackpool, who has been extremely busy on all bands this month. On 7MHz using a QRP Plus, 5W or less of c.w. and a MFJ1621 antenna Roy worked PA2WJZ (Netherlands), GW0MYY/QRP (Wales), G/OM2NW/P on holiday in London and GH0STH (Jersey) between 1000 and 1230UTC.

A little later on were DL7UX/P (Germany) 2040, RX3AMG (European Russia) 2216, OK1NR (Czech Republic) 2237 and OZ1EQC (Denmark) at 2326UTC. One s.s.b. contact was made with EI9FN (Ireland) at 1104 UTC using just 1.5W!

THE 14MH7 BAND

On to 14MHz now and welcome to new reporter **Paul Morrison GOVHT** in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Paul has been enjoying PSK31 using just 2W QRP for a few weeks now and say's "I have recently made an internal low power modification to my TS-50S and have been having a whale of a time using PSK31.

Paul continues "The antenna is an 'invisible' inverted V antenna with the wire elements laid over the tiles of my roof. No

 Carl GW0VSW spent some time on HMS Belfast this month operating GB2RN with fellow members of the RNARS.





complaints from my neighbours! I have been amazed at the results that can be achieved from what can only be described as a 'challenged' operating position. The mode has taken a little time to grips with but is proving very addictive".

Paul's best contacts this month include 4Z5AO (Israel) 2120, RU3AT (European Russia) 2205 and K4FAZ in Huntsville, Alabama at 2321UTC. Glad you're enjoying the new mode Paul and look forward to more reports from you soon.

Another PSK31 user is **Robin Trebilcock GW3ZCF** in Bishopston, near Swansea, who operated in the evening and worked VU2ATN (India) 1835, A45XR (Oman) 2043, JA3KM (Japan) 2113, JW4WJ (Svalbard) 2258, HS0ZBS (Saudi Arabia) 2237 and 9Y4NED (Trinidad) at 0029UTC using his IC775 and 50W into a 40 metre horizontal loop. Robin also logged FM5GU (Martinique) 0005, A61AJ (United Arab Emirates) 0018 and P40A (Aruba) at 0022 using s.s.b. and 100W in conditions described as "Quite good" despite some massive solar events which wiped out the band on several occasions!

Mike Baker G3SUK in Stowmarket, Suffolk, spent a week in the Mull of Kintyre, Scotland operating as GM3SUK/mobile. Over 300 stations were worked including one, who knew the location, and insisted on singing the well known song by Paul MaCartney. All this in the middle of a pile-up!

Using s.s.b. and 60W to a whip on the car roof Mike worked LX1GA/M (Luxemburg), PA3CWQ (Netherlands), OY4TN (Faroe Islands), OH3GZ (Finland), SV9CVY (Crete), 4Z5GV (Israel) and 5Z4FZ (Kenya) between 0945 and 1845UTC. Nice going Mike. I'm glad you enjoyed the week.

THE 18 & 21MHz BANDS

Not so many of you worked on 18MHz this month judging by your reports. One reporter who did was **William Sampson M5WNS**, Chudleigh, Devon who found this band much better in the evenings around 2000UTC. Using s.s.b. countries worked included CP6XE (Bolivia), HI9/DL7DF (Dominican Republic), DS5USH (South Korea) and JH4FEB (Japan).

The Ten Tec Omni 5 and HF6 vertical of **Ted Trowell G2HKU** were working hard on 21MHz. Highlights included ZL6QH (New Zealand), VQ9VK (Chagos), BA0AA (China), VU2TMP (India), HL1CG (South Korea) and JX8XM (Jan Mayen) all with 70W of c.w between 1300 and 1700UTC.

Also on 21MHz was Don G3NOF who used s.s.b. from a TS-950 and trapped dipole antenna to reach ZD7K (St Helena) 0930, 3W2DF (Vietnam) 1553, OX3LG (Greenland) 1615, HH2SJR (Haiti), AL0E (Alaska) 1833 and KG4IZ (Guantanamo Bay) at 2035UTC.

THE 24 & 28MHz BANDS

On 24MHz William M5WNS worked PJ6/PA3GIO/M (St. Maarten) 1913 and ZD8K (Ascension Island) at 1913UTC. The rig was an FT-1000MP with 100W into a G5RV.

Also operating on 24MHz, using an FT-1000MP, 100W of c.w. and 4-element Mosley beam was **Brian Parsons GW0KZK**, Skewen. Brian lists EL1DA (Liberia), KC1XX (U.S.A.), LU1VM (Argentina) and PP5JD (Brazil) amongst his contacts between 1230 and 1525UTC.

Over to Northern Ireland now and **Peter Lowrie MI5JYK** who managed some weekend operating on 28MHz using his FT-101ZD and 5W of s.s.b. to a dipole antenna. Between 1035 and 1400UTC Peter worked 5B4KH (Cyprus), E4/OE1GZA (Palestine) and EA9PD (Ceuta & Malilla).

It's a while since **Jon Wheeler G0IUE**, Melksham, Wiltshire has been able to operate. A new addition to the family in December has meant Amateur Radio has taken a 'back seat' over the past few months. However, during a rare evening operating YY5ACM (Venezuela) was logged at 1833UTC using s.s.b. followed by VP9KK (Bermuda) 1820 and EA8AGQ at 1944 on f.m.. Glad to hear Matthew is doing well Jon.

Finally to **Brian Waddell GM4XQJ**, Laurieston, Falkirk. Brian used his Ten-Tec Argonaut and 5W c.w. into a 3-element tribander to work JT1BH (Mongolia), BQ9P (Taiwan) and CX3EU (Uruguay) around 1030UTC. This was followed a little later by P49V (Aruba) at 1500 and ZA1BA (Albania) at 1630UTC. The only s.s.b. contact was YB0ABB (Indonesia) at 1539UTC.

QSL CORNER

Here is this month's list of QSL information which I hope you are all finding useful?

7X2RO via OM3GCN, 9G5MD via F5VCR, DA61AQ via N1DG, AX8AV via UA9XC, CO8CY, CX2AQ, CX5AO and CE2LZR via EA5KB, CT9L via DJ6QT, ED5MUC via EA5VM, FK8GJ via F6CXJ, H44AA via POB G-11, Honiara, Solomon Islands, H44MS via DL2GAC, J79WW via N4USA, OT1H via ON4ACT, TI5BX/8 via TI4JHQ, VP6CW via ZL3CW, YW4M via W4SO.

SIGNING OFF

Most of our reporters have been describing unusual conditions on the high frequency bands in their reports. The largest sunspot in 10 years was crossing the sun's surface this month. Called AR9393 this fast growing spot was already 13 times the size of Earth!

An eruption near AR9393 hurled a coronal mass towards us with forecasters estimating a 15 to 25% chance of severe geomagnetic storms. No wonder the bands were effected. If you would like more information and updates on this check out the website

www.spaceweather.com

There was a lot to fit in this month but I think I just about made it. Many thanks to all our h.f.. reporters. They have all shown that DX can still be worked, whatever the band conditions! My thanks also to **Bernie**McClenny W3UR and The Weekly DX and Tedd Mirliotta KB8NW and the OPDX Bulletin for the DX information.

73, Carl GWOVSW

PW LISTENING & OPERATING WATCH LIST. (ALL TIMES UTC)

Sean Gilbert G4UCJ operates most days around 0700-1100 and 2200-0200 on all bands using an IC-746 and 50W into a half-size G5RV, WARC inverted vee or HF6 vertical.

Rob Mannion G3FXD listens and operates weekdays and weekends, 1800-1830 on 3.7MHz with 100W s.s.b. and 3.530 or 3.560kHz and 18.105KHz QRP c.w. using an Alinco DX-70 transceiver and a long wire or mobile whips.

Carl Mason GW0VSW listens and operates on 14060 and 21060 most evenings at 1800 with a Ten Tec Argonaut 2 and inverted G5RV.

Don McLean G3NOF operates 1030 Saturdays on 3.685KHz on the ISWL Net or 1030 Sundays on the Yeovil ARC Net on 3.665kHz using a Kenwood TS-950 and trapped dipole antenna.

Leighton Smart GW0LBI operates on some weekdays and Sunday mornings on 28.555KHz s.s.b regardless of conditions, at 1030 using a President Lincoln transceiver with 20W to a 11m half-wave vertical.

Brian Williams GW0GHF operates most afternoons around 1400. He also simultaneously monitors 70.200KHz s.s.b. and 51.510kHz n.b.f.m at this time and is looking for weekly skeds especially on 70MHz. Contact Brian, QTHR.

George Woods G3LPT operates an open net on 29.630kHz n.b.f.m. 0930 Tuesday to Friday.

Jon Wheeler G0IUE monitors 29.600kHz n.b.f.m. every evening between 1730 and 2230 regardless of conditions using a Yaesu FT-920 transceiver running 100W and 2-element triband beam.

Brian Parsons GW0KZK listens and operates on 14.250kHz 1000-12000 and 7075KHz 1400-1600 most days using an Yeasu FT-1000MP and 100W into a 4-element Mosely beam.

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THE SHORTWAVE SHOP

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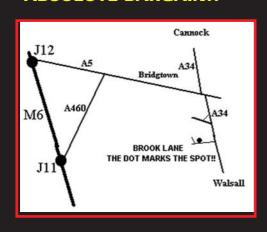
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KEYBOARD COMMS

BY ROGER COOKE G3LDI

TEL: (01508) 570278

E-MAIL: rcooke@g3ldi.freeserve.co.uk

PACKET: G3LDI @ GB7LDI

he International Space Station (ISS) MIR has now been delegated to history, with a fiery death over the Pacific Ocean. It had a chequered history, but considering it outlived its original life-span by a number of years and also helped in Space technology, it was an object of pride and an unparalleled success. Amateur Radio was involved with MIR over the years, many contacts on voice and data were made with visiting Amateurs, and lots of QSL cards were distributed.

Now the ISS is in orbit, and the first astronauts are on board, Amateur Radio is again involved. It's now commonplace for amateurs to communicate via satellite, either on voice or using the Low Earth Orbiters (LEOs) via data. This can be achieved in two ways.

You can use the satellite indirectly by using a Satellite Gateway; in the UK you have a choice of two, GB7SAT and GB7LDI. Using the REQSAT server, mail to most countries on the planet can be delivered in a respectable time, sometimes comparable or even better than the Internet.

You can also set up a station yourself and contact other such stations direct on the satellite, using the store and forward mailbox facilities. You can also download high definition pictures from UO-36, as described in Keyboard Comms *PW* November 2000.

Cosmonauts Day took place on 12 April, marking several occasions in Space history. These included the 40th anniversary of the first human space flight by Yuri Gagarin, the 30th anniversary of the first space station (*Salyut 1*) and the 20th anniversary of the first launch of the first reusable space vehicle, the space shuttle.

Amateur operation on board the ISS is conducted in duplex mode. Ground stations listen on 145.800MHz. For packet operation you transmit to the ISS on 145.990MHz. For voice operation, you should transmit to the ISS on 144.490MHz.

The gear on board the ISS is generally a hand-held 144MHz transceiver and a PacComm PicoPacket TNC. Unfortunately the back-up battery has failed and the programmed callsign that you should see, RZ3DZR, shows up as NOCALL. This will be fixed as soon as a computer can be spared to hook up the TNC and re-initialise the parameters and insert a callsign.

The digipeater is on though, so you can

use it to send short messages to other Amateurs within the footprint of the ISS. The VIA call to use will depend on whether this problem has been fixed by the time you read this, but bear in mind it could still be NOCALL.

If you need up-to-date sightings and you live near a capital city, look at

http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/sightings

If the DCC issue a bulletin outlining the rules, it would save a lot of hassle. A statement in plain English without recourse to the usual legal jargon would be useful. Having said that, it has made use of the network by debating this topic, albeit not seen by most users if sent to Sysop only.

Until we have a backbone network

ROGER COOKE G3LDI KEEPS YOU UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST DATA COMMS NEWS.

For a description of how to use the ISS packet system go to http://www.rac.ca/arisspak.htm or for an introduction, go to

http://www.rac.ca.ariss.htm (Thanks to the *Australian Amateur Packet Newsletter (AAPRA)* for supplying some of this information).

MAKE UP YOUR MIND

Over the past few weeks, there has been a lot of waffle being passed around on the network, some of it becoming personal in as much that insults have been traded. I must have killed off around 50 messages to sysop, all with the same topic.

Discussions have included sub-section x of paragraph y of section xx of the BR68, plus the legality of whether the sysop will be responsible for the content of these newly allowable messages, and would they be allowed to be forwarded to the next BBS down the line, etc. All this talk over whether Joe Bloggs should be allowed to advertise his FT-900 on the network! With the network falling apart due to migration to the Internet (where you can advertise free and have a circulation of millions, with no petty rules) and we have to argue over something as pathetic as this!

If the RA condones it, so be it, if they don't, then why worry? If the advert stops on my BBS, assuming the adverts are read by 30% of the user base the advertiser will have a circulation of about 10, big deal!

If it's passed around the UK network, you can probably say that it will be read by a maximum of around 1000 and that's being generous. Putting the advert into *Free-ads*, *PW*, *Radcom*, or similar would reach many more.

running at a speed greater than the Internet, we will always be the 'second service'. We need to show that we are committed to having a senior service, but that requires a lot of thought, planning, skill and money.

We need to ask ourselves if it is going to be worth it. Hopefully it will be, but it will also require support from **you**.

HARD DRIVE TECHNOLOGY

There have been huge improvements in computer technology over the past 20 years, but the hard drive has remained the main storage medium. This technology has been proven, is relatively cheap to produce and can hold far more data than the nearest solid storage equivalent. Value for money has also improved, I remember paying £140 for my first 10Mb hard drive, now you can get a 40Gb drive for less than £100!

Despite an overall improvement in speeds and capacities the basic technology remains the same. A magnetic layer is manipulated by read/write heads to represent the digital 0s and 1s used by computers.

Externally, the drives look somewhat dull, but lifting the lid reveals a complex mechanical beast! All hard drives are made from the same components, platters, a spindle motor, heads and a controller.

DATA PLATTERS

Data is stored in platters. These are round disks, fixed on a spindle. They tend to be made out of an aluminium alloy. But IBM recently deviated from this when it started using glass. A magnetic layer, called the media, is applied



to either side of the platter. Typically, this is a thin coating, only a few microns thick.

The amount of data that the disk is capable of housing is referred to as its Areal Density. This is the number of gigabits per square inch that the media can support. Finally, a protective lubricating layer is applied that protects the drive if any foreign matter, or the drive heads, make contact with the surface.

Organisation of the platters is broken down into tracks and sectors. Tracks are concentric rings that run around the spindle, similar to a tree's rings. Sectors divide the disk into pie-like portions. Using the platter number, the track and sector, it's possible for the disk to find any given piece of data.

SPINDLE MOTOR

The spindle's role is to spin the disks around as fast as possible. As the heads are only capable of moving across tracks, the disk spins sectors around be means of the spindle motor. Its power is represented by rotations per minute (r.p.m.).

Top-of-the-range server drives are usually capable of 10,000r.p.m., although Seagate has developed a 15,000r.p.m. drive. With faster spindle speeds, the drive's performance is improved considerably.

HEADS

For each disk surface, there is one head. The heads are mounted on arms so that they can move across tracks. Sectors

ARISS Packet System

ings WB4APR, and Roy Neal K6DU

ISS is now digipeating packets via the UNFROTO call of NOCAL Holes is 145.99 and describe is 145.80.

#Stat! 1 5 1 1 * SARISS Packet Syste. SNetscape Netscape SAZETTE Neurobeter RM.

only come under the head due to the spinning of the disk.

The heads don't ever make contact with the drive surface. Instead, they are aerodynamically designed to 'fly' just above the surface. This protects the disk's magnetic surface from being wiped off.

It's the job of the head to read the magnetic surface and return the information stored there. While most heads were once magneto-resistive (MR), the current trend is towards Giant Magneto Resistive (GMR). GMR offers greater

sensitivity to the magnetic field. This allows data to be squeezed tighter together to improve the Areal Densities of disks, as well as improving performance.

CONTROLLER

Computers store data digitally, while hard drives use magnetic pulses. This involves some kind of conversion when the computer asks the drive to return a file. The controller's job, therefore, is to sit between the physical drive and the computer.

For example, when the computer sends a read request, the controller instructs the drive to where the file is stored and converts the incoming magnetic pulses into a digital format that the computer can understand.

While the hard drive has been around for many years, we are only now experiencing the

technology at its best. The latest drives on the market are capable of holding up to 180Gb of data. Obviously, in an era of multi-media and high bandwidth applications, this will soon seem like a drop in the ocean.

IMPROVEMENT

Improving the capacity of a hard drive is what worries the average user. There are currently two techniques for improving drive capacity; increase the number of platters, or increase the areal density.

Increasing the number of platters requires a bigger case, more heads and a more powerful motor. A more sensible method is to improve the areal density.

Improving areal density affects the performance of the drive and forces the price down, as fewer platters are needed to create higher densities. With higher densities, a better head is needed to distinguish between the

tracks and this in itself is a large part of the design of hard drives.

A final consideration is the choice of interface. While all hard drives are built around a common architecture, there are two main types of interface: integrated drive electronics (IDE) and small computer systems interface(SCSI). The IDE finds its place in the home and

gives a transfer rate of 100MBps. The alternative is to go for the more technologically advanced SCSI interface.

A SCSI is a parallel interface that supplies the supplies of the supplies of

A SCSI is a parallel interface that supports both internal and external devices. These don't have to be just storage, because devices such as scanners are also supported.

In addition, SCSI, through the use of Ids, can support more than two devices per channel. The initial specification allowed for eight, while the current revision supports sixteen.

The other advantage of SCSI is the speed of the interface. SCSI started out with an 8-bit wide interface, narrow SCSI, capable of sustaining 5MPs. As the standard progressed, the data width became 16-bits wide and the interface can sustain 160Mbps – Ultra160 – with 320Mbps just around the corner.

Performance of hard drives is measured on two fronts: time taken to find the data and the



data transfer rate. The time taken to find the data involves the latency - the time it takes the disk to perform one revolution and the seek time - the time to move the head between tracks.

It's usually the seek time, in milliseconds, that's quoted on hard drive specs. Drive manufacturers are constantly trying to improve the data transfer rate, both directly and indirectly, with an increase in seek times.

The methods available are: making the heads move less, increasing the rotation speed of the platters, or both. Part of this can be achieved with an increased areal density, because this packs the data closer together, meaning the heads need to mover less to get to the data.

Other than this, it's a matter of improving the head electronics and the rotation speed of the drives, which isn't easy, as a faster drive will generally use more power and create more heat. Also, once the drive is moving faster, it's harder for the head to spot where the data starts and ends.

My data must end here too, but before I finish, just a reminder about the following contests: 21/22 July: North American RTTY QSO Party; 28/29 July: Russian RTTY WW Contest and 18/19 August: SARTG WW RTTY contest. Cheerio for now.

low-budget machines, as it is a lot cheaper than SCSI.

The IDE is an interface that can support up to two internal devices per channel. Today, IDE is built on the AT Attached (ATA) standard, which defines the speed and access type of the interface.

The interface standard started off using programmed input/output (PIO) as the access method, which uses the main processor as part of the data path. This is an inefficient method and only allows for transfer speeds of up to 16.6Mbps. As the standard progressed, so did the access types, and direct memory access (DMA) was introduced.

Direct memory access allows data from the hard drive to be written directly to memory with no processor intervention. Currently, the standard is for ultra-DMA (UDMA), which

Roger G3LD9

DX DESTINATION

BY ED TAYLOR G3SQX C/O PW EDITORIAL OFFICES **ARROWSMITH COURT** STATION APPROACH **BROADSTONE** DORSET BH18 8PW

E-MAIL: g3sqx@email.com

his column is mainly about setting up a station while you're away from base, not so easy at the moment, because Foot and Mouth problems have curtailed portable operation. Nonetheless, there's an ideal opportunity to make plenty of QSOs in July, both for anyone who can get away and also for those who are staying at home. I'm talking about the Islands on the Air (IOTA) contest, organised by the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB).

I'm an enthusiast for radio contests, and although you may not be, the IOTA contest is aimed at anyone who likes just going on the air and having some contacts. It's also true to say that some of the leading contesters in the world will be striving to win their sections, but there are always hundreds of smaller stations active, who are just joining in for fun. Some are at home, some are portable, some are hoping to work lots of DX and some are just having a look round for any interesting or unusual operations.

You might say that IOTA is not for you as it's an h.f event, and you are a Class B licensee. No problem! Just find someone with an h.f. licence, and join forces.

The IOTA contest is specifically designed to be a combination of DXpedition, QSO party and competition. Be sensible about access to farmland, the RSGB's official position is that, this year, "the Society is not supporting 'field day style' operations, and some of the rarer islands are privately owned (e.g. Treshnish, Monachs, etc) and operators should have the owner's permission before landing". So many types of expedition are still permissible in this contest.

Fig. 1: Web resources for DX Destination readers

The RSGB's Islands on the Air web site www.rsgbiota.org

Software for the IOTA contest and other events, from EI5DI

www.ei5di.com

Take a DX holiday in Bermuda - VP9GE explains www.qsl.net/vp9ge

Tips from the Radio Society of Bermuda www.bermudashorts.bm/rsb

More information about Bermuda

www.bermuda.com/info www.bermudatourism.org

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

The idea of IOTA was formulated almost 40 years ago by a British short wavelistener, Geoff Watts, and later taken over by the RSGB. He thought that it would be interesting to encourage activity world-wide, by creating awards for various levels of achievement in contacting stations on different islands. The scheme has worked better than anyone could

continent designator (e.g. EU, AF), and a three-digit number.

Anyone planning to make a special trip for the contest would be advised to check which IOTA Reference is involved, from the RSGB IOTA Directory. This publication also contains lots of additional information about the whole IOTA programme and the way it's organised. The IOTA web site is helpful too,

THIS TIME ED G3SQX OFFERS SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR GETTING OUT AND ABOUT, INCLUDING A WEEKEND OF DXING IN THE ISLANDS ON THE AIR CONTEST.

have imagined, with year-round operation from DXpeditions and island chasers.

The IOTA contest came along in the 1990s and it has had the effect of bringing together top contesters and IOTA fans for a concentrated weekend of feverish activity. This year the contest starts on 28 July at 1200UTC, ending at the same time the next day, on the 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28MHz bands.

The scoring in the contest is related to the number of IOTA References that you contact, counting separately for each band and mode. To avoid the inclusion of rocks and smaller islands, groups are created and given a reference number. These numbers are allocated by the RSGB's IOTA Committee, and consist of a

look here for the complete rules of the contest, see Fig. 1.

BRITISH ISLES

We're in a special position here in the UK, simply because we live on an island. For IOTA purposes, we represent extra value to the other competitors because we have an IOTA Reference, whereas they probably do

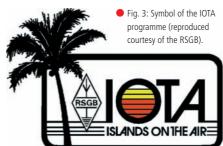
not. We also have the ability to become quite sought after in the contest, by travelling off the mainland. Lots of **British Amateurs** do this, and you'll hear plenty of strange callsigns and unusual QTHs!

Shown in

Fig. 2 are IOTA references for various parts of the British Isles. A cursory look at this partial list will show that some of these islands are not hard to get to. There are opportunities to set up stations at a friendly guest house or camp site, then become DX for a Day. You will be very popular with the other participants and you'll have a great time

In fact, there's a special category for amateurs who set up their stations specifically for the contest, and run 100w or less. You can choose to operate either c.w. or 'phone, or both.

A portable h.f. rig with a doublet and a.t.u. will do very well in this category, and the /P callsign and uncommon IOTA



vourself!

• Fig. 2: IOTA References around the British Isles

EU-005 Mainland (G, GW, GM) EU-120 Isle of Wight (G) EU-011 Scilly Isles (G)

Ailsa Craig, Bute, Arran (GM) EU-123

EU-012 Shetland (GM) EU-008 Skye (GM)

EU-009 Orkney (GM) Caldey, Skomer (GW FU-124

EU-115 Ireland (EI, GI) EU-116

Isle of Man (GD) EU-114 Guernsey (GU) EU-013 Jersey (GJ)

EU-121 Arranmore, Dalkey, Bear (EI)



Reference will attract plenty of attention. The IOTA logo, used by many enthusiasts on their QSL cards is shown in **Fig. 3**.

If you're still not convinced to go on the air for a few hours on 28-29 July, here's an offer for anyone who has a computer. **Paul O'Kane EI5DI**, has produced software which will log stations worked in the IOTA contest and check for duplicate contacts, IOTA References, and many other things. It's available free of charge from his web site, see



Fig. 4: Bermuda and its location in the Atlantic.



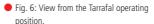


Fig. 5: VP9GE's apartments in Bermuda.

Fig. 1 for details. Surely that must be enough to tempt you get out and about for this interesting event!

FEATURED OTH - BERMUDA

Imagine a great place for a holiday, a good location for Amateur Radio, and an easy flight from the UK. That's Bermuda in a nutshell.

There are some common misconceptions about Bermuda, people think it's in the Caribbean, which is not the case and that it's too expensive for the average Radio Amateur, which it doesn't have to be. Look at the map in **Fig. 4** and you'll see that Bermuda is well separated from the Caribbean islands and is actually in the western part of the North Atlantic.

It's true that Bermuda is an island where the very well-heeled are frequently seen. They stay in accommodation and eat in restaurants which ordinary mortals do not frequent. However, there are many lower-priced places within reach of those without bulging wallets. By using self-catering and shopping where the locals go, you can reduce costs significantly. As far as travel is concerned, there are direct flights from London, which can be quite reasonable in price, if you are prepared to be flexible about the time of year and dates.

Bermuda is self-governing and is one of the few remaining British colonies. This means it has its own parliament, but relies on the UK for defence and foreign policy.

There is a mixture of American and British influences, with a little West Indian flavour. This mixture is illustrated by the fact that traffic drives on the left, but the currency is dollars and cents. The climate is generally mild, with winters being similar to a good Spring day in England and summers being warmer, but not too oppressive. Rain can fall at any time of year, but it is usually in the form of short-lived showers and the sun soon returns.

Enough of the travelogue! What's the attraction from the radio point of view? As with many other countries having a small amateur population, Bermuda can be considered fairly well sought-after, although by no means rare DX. You will have no trouble finding QSOs, and these can easily develop into pile-ups, if that's what you like.

The most interesting thing about Bermuda is that one of the resident Amateurs, Ed Kelly VP9GE runs some holiday cottages, and welcomes Radio Amateurs to come and stay. Several cottages are suitable for use as shacks and there is plenty of room for antennas. I have operated there during the IOTA contest and had a great time, both on the air, and as a tourist.

Ed is mainly active on h.f. RTTY. Equipment and antennas are available, but if you want to take your own, that's fine.

Ed can help in getting wires over trees. I put up several dipoles around 15 metres high when I was there, in the large (100m long) garden. I had help from VP9GE and his angling skills, he's pretty good at getting fishing line over some useful branches!

YOUR VP9 QTH

I found VP9GE to be an excellent host, who was ready with any help and suggestions that you might need. He will meet you at the airport, and hand over your VP9 licence, which he has already obtained. Then you'll

enjoy the drive along the North Shore to Tarrafal Apartments, shown in **Fig. 5**. Bermuda is not very large, so the journey takes just a few minutes.

If you get tired of radio, just look out at the view of this picturesque island, see **Fig. 6**. You will certainly want to allocate a bit of time to sight-seeing, snorkelling, sunbathing, wining, dining, and so on.

Since no rental cars are available, mopeds and bicycles can be rented by visitors who want to get around Bermuda. This is part of the fun of the holiday for me, but does not appeal to everybody. Fortunately, there is a good bus service, which passes the road at the end of VP9GE's drive.

From the radio point of view, I would recommend VP9 for h.f. operation. On v.h.f. and u.h.f. it is too far away from any other land to be viable, unless you are lucky with openings.

I had hundreds of QSOs on all nine h.f. bands, mostly on c.w.

I found 10-28MHz to be most successful, with particular demand on the newer bands (10, 18 and 24MHz).

On the lower bands, 1.8, 3.5 and 7MHz things were slower. Because of Bermuda's location, there is generally static on these bands, lasting into the evening. The best times were between 2100 and 0600 hours, when it eased off and the problem is reduced considerably during winter. Still, I had many summer-time contacts, even on 1.8MHz, with my 100W reaching Wyoming to the west, and the Czech Republic to the east.

CORRESPONDENCE

My request for information last time received a good response, thank you. I've been reminded to ask those operating temporarily outside their own country to arrange QSL cards.

Please publicise your QSL route and send envelopes to the appropriate bureau. If operating from a club station, make sure the club does not have to deal with your QSLs received, it will cost them money, and your contacts probably won't get the cards they expect.

In the next DX Destination, I'll go into more detail about the organisation of a trip and in particular antennas. You might think that other aspects of a DX holiday are more important, but it is usually the antennas that are most trouble to carry and set up, and are most critical to a successful operation.

I hope to contact you in the IOTA contest this year, I'll be at a DX Destination myself! If you have any notes about a trip that you've made, or have advice for DX holidaymakers or need help, let me know. Write to me at the *PW* offices or E-mail me. The deadline for the October column is the middle of July.

73, Ed G3S2X

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| Trio TS830S Choice of 2 from | |
| Trio TS830M In almost mint condition. Complete with MC-50 desk mic. | 6375 |
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| Plessey repeaters OK for 23cms with manual. Last few | 1751 |
| Motorola repeaters OK for 2m but no conversion info. | F51 |
| Yaesu FTC1044 2 ch. VHF complete with FP-16 PSU, Brand new. | £104 |
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| Hansen FS50HP 2kW 1.6-60MHz SWR/PWR meter | |
| Icom PS15 20A PSU. Nice condition | £100 |
| Icom PS85 20A PSU. In excellent condition. | £150 |
| Yaesu FV101Z External VFO | |
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TUNE-IN

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here do you listen to international radio? In the living room? In a bedroom/bedsit? On the move; in the privacy of your own shack? Overseas? In the office? And how do you listen? Radio, satellite, rebroadcast, internet?

I only ask, because that haunting statment that just won't go away - that the internet is the way of radio life in the future - is still with us. No apologies for coming back to it once more, in the light of the news in my previous column that **Swiss Radio International** has now taken the plunge and decided to pull the plug on short wave altogether.

In Australia, **Bob Padula** of the **EDXP** laments that shortwave cutbacks are affecting services to Australia. The latest casualties are not only Switzerland, but also the **Far East Broadcasting Company**, South Korea, some broadcasts from the Vatican, Austria, and Germany.

In despair, Bob has set up a new electronic club called **Shortwave Australia** - an "innovative hobby club intended to support

jams, high access costs, tiny audiences compared to radio, and lack of portability are all still unsolved difficulties.

All-in-one TV plus Internet plus E-mail are here, but these are separate activities not easily combined. Is the family really going to stop viewing while you surf the 'net for international radio?

SHORT WAVE SCHEDULES

Enough of that! While there is still some sanity out there, **Radio Switzerland International** has a not unreasonable short wave schedule, up to the end of October, when the rot starts to set in. It's not that much of schedule for Europe, mind you, as it's concentrated on Africa and America.

Europe is strictly regionalised, so good results may be difficult there. Europe: 0400-0430 and 0500-0530 on 9.610; 1000-1030 on 15.315 and 1200-1230 on 15.315 and 1900-1930 on 6.110MHz. Americas: 0100-0200, 0230-0300, 0400-0500 on 9.885, 2300-0000 on 9.885, 11.905MHz. Middle East/Africa: 0730-0800 on 15.545, 17.685, 21.750; 0830-0900 on 2.1770; 1730-1800 on 15.220,

1930 on 6.025, 7.130; 2100-2130 on 6.025; 2130-2200 on 3.975MHz. North America: 0100-1030 9.560 and at 0230-0300 on 9.570MHz.

For more on Radio Budapest schedules write to, **Brody Sandor u. 5-7, H-1800 Budapest, Hungary** or E-mail: **ANGOL1@kaf.radio.hu** Website: **www.kaf.radio.hu**

Radio Ecclesia, the Angolan Catholic broadcaster may be back on short wave. Try listening at 0500-0600 and 1700-1800 on 15.775MHz. This service, via Juelich in Germany, is intended for internal listening in the wide open spaces of Angola, backing up the f.m. transmissions in the capital Luanda. The language is that of Angola, Portuguese.

WIDE SPREAD

Radio Australia, infused with a new supply of money, is now able to spread itself out a bit once more. Of course, their broadcasts are primarily aimed at their South East Asian neighbours and the Pacific Islands.

Nonetheless, it has often proved possible to hear some transmissions much further afield, such as in Europe.

So see what you make of these listen at: **0**000-0130 on 17.775, 0530-0800 on 17.750, 0930-1100 on 17.750, 0900-1400 on 21.820, 1330-1700 on 11.660, 1530-1900 on 9.475, 1900-2130 on 9.500 and at 2200-0000 on 11.880MHz. Let me know if you can catch more than a whiff of sound.

For more info on Aussie broadcasting schedules contact: **Australia. GPO Box 428G, Melbourne 3001, Australia** or E-mail: english@radioaus.abc.net.au Website: www.abc.net.au/ra/

And finally, the latest printed schedule from **Radio Sweden** invites you to take part in strange dances around poles garlanded in flowers and greenery, to celebrate the return of summer. If you'd rather do this from a distance, tune in as follows (Europe/Africa/Middle East schedule, there are others for the Pacific and North America).

Try listening at: 1330-1400 on 17.505; 1730-1800 on 6.065 (Mon-Sat) 13.580 (Sun); 1930-2200 and 2130-2200 6.065MHz. More details from **Radio Sweden**, **S-105**, **Sweden**. E-mail: **info@rs.sr.se**; **www.sr.se/rs/**

Finally for this month, for a total round-up of English international broadcasting check out the latest edition of the *Global Broadcasting Guide* which is available direct from **AIB**, **PO Box 4440**, **Walton**, **CO14 8BX**, **Website:** www.aib.org.uk. for £3.50 for two 6-monthly issues.

7om

TOM WALTERS ASKS HOW DO YOU LISTEN INTERNATIONAL RADIO? BEFORE ROUNDING UP THE LATEST SCHEDULES.

shortwave radio monitoring and listening from Australia". The services include free membership, electronically delivered news and support and postal-mailed references and publications at a nominal cost. You can find out what he's up to on

http://members.tripod.com/~bpadula/SW. AUS/

All right, so I say in one breath that the internet is not good enough and then I tell you to go looking for information on it! But that is **just the point** - the internet originated as, and still is, a wonderful medium for transmitting data, that is, words in print and images. It was **not** ever intended to transmit 'streamed' (continuous) audio, let alone video. The boffins are struggling to get their 'streaming' to work effectively and economically, but they are well and truly up against it.

Perhaps in some distant, as yet unimagined future, we will all be able to access international broadcasting by some method more predictable and reliable than the internet or short wave, but it won't be for a good while yet. Meanwhile, internet bandwidth, traffic

17.640, 21.720 and 1930-2030 on 13.770, 15.220, 17.580, 17.735MHz. Make the most of it while you can.

Another long-running technical dispute is over the transmission of internet and other data via electric power lines. Germany's upper house of parliament has now approved the frequency ranges to be used for system transmitting internet and other data over electric power lines. Those frequencies would include shortwave, and the data would be transmitted through unshielded electric lines. Peter Senger, head of engineering at **Deutsche Welle**, is not amused.

Back to short wave now. If all that yodelling from Switzerland is not to your taste, one of the huge delights of international listening is that you can travel so easily in your imagination to other stations..

An old faithful from Central Europe, Radio Budapest, offers listeners in Europe and North America a daily mix of news, sport, culture, tourism, history etc. Avail yourself, perhaps thinking of a pleasant holiday by a Hungarian lake as you do so, listen for: Europe: 1900-

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FOR SALE

3-gang (0.0003) tuning cap with s/m gear train at least 100:1, £5 plus postage. David G4HFL, Bucks. Tel: (01844) 346274.

ADI AR147 2m (144MHz) transceiver complete and in good condition prefer buyer to inspect and collect (Morpeth), £110 o.v.n.o. Tel: (01670) 760511.

Butternut vertical antenna HF9VX 80-6m (3.5 - 50MHz), 7.9m high with CPK counter poise KEt, as new, £120. Tony, Kent. Tel: (01689) 836929.

Capco BLT 6000 high power AMU for balanced lines only, as new, £150. 150KW 107 Z-match with 160m (1.8MHz), little tatty, £40. Ken, Waltham Cross. Tel: (01992) 632434.

Classic and other books of interest collected personally over 60 year period gradually being disposed of, for next list send name and address to: Richa d Marris, 35 Kingswood House, Farnham Road, Slough, Berks SL2 1DA.

Complete station perfect w.o., £1650 o.n.o. Kenwood p.s.u., £65. Ameritron 811 6000W, £495. Spare valves, £15. MFJ-962 1.5kW tuner, £175. Butternut HF6V vertical, £175 reluctant sale, ill health. Prefer collect or deliver for £30 if near M25 . Tel: (01634) 379140.

Cushcraft R7000 vertical, excellent condition, only few weeks use, £130 buyer collects. Also Cushcraft 80m (3.5MHz) add-on kit, never used, still in sealed carton, £120. Both items open to offer. Tel: Wiltshire (01380) 850586 anytime.

Eddystone 830 RX 15 valve double supe het 300kHz 30MHz in nine bands, tunable first i.f. v.g.c. and g.w.o. with home-brew matching plinth speaker, £200. Prefer buyer collects. Jim McGowan M5AIP, Essex Tel: (01708) 340304.

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FT-290R MkII 2m (144MHz) multimode transceiver, £200. FT-790R 70cm (430MHz), multi-mode transceiver, £175, Microwave modules 2m (144MHz) linear amplifier/pre-amp 100W output, 10W drive, £100. All good condition with manuals, mic, leads etc. Shaun G8VPG, Bristol. Tel: (01225) 873003 office hours or (01225) 873098 evenings and weekends.

Hallicrafters SX42 receiver a.m./f.m. 0.5-110MHz original manual, £120. Icom 737a TXCVR, new, boxed, £585. Kenwood TM-707 2m/70cm (144/430MHz), new boxed, £240. Icom IC-970H 2m/70cm base, all-mode RX 50-905MHz, new boxed. £50hone or p/ex for h.f. IC-756. TS- 2000. G4AFY, Kidderminster. Tel: (01562) 747480.

HRO 5T WWII receiver and power unit, very good condition, nine coils in boxes, £345. Also Textronix 2225 double beam scope, 50MHz with probes, £265. Modern, very nice. Tel: (01872) 862291.

Icom IC-202S v.g.c. as reveiwed in April *PW*, all in good condition, £130 or swap for 2m/70cm (144/430MHz) hand-held with wide RX or w.h.y. St. Austell, Cornwall. Tel: (07765) 437568.

Icom IC-251E 2m (144MHz) multimode with Mutek front-end. Matching IC-451E 70cm (430MHz) multi-mode. Both with manuals and mics, £199 each Tel: Staines (01784) 458583 or E-mail: g3wwt@thersgb.net

Icom IC-706 MkII d.s.p, excellent condition, original packing including 10W tuner control and manual, £575, buyer collects. Tel: Wilts (01380) 850586 anytime.

Icom IC-W2E hand-held for 144/430MHz, extras, boxed, excellent, £195. Mizuho MX-7 portable s.s.b./c.w. transceiver for 7MHz, portable antenna, case, excellent, £120. Clive G4NVX, QTHR, Herefo d. Tel: (01432) 343309.

Icom R85000 receiver, boxed with manual, as new condition, little used, Global 1000 a.t u., ext. speaker, c/w 2 ICS WX programmes, sw ant., various books, good starter kit, £850. Tel: (02392) 383663 pm.

JRC NRD-525 receiver, £450. Fai haven RD500 radio database, £495. Lowe HF-150 Europa, £275. HF-225, £200. Trio TS-711E, £425. R-5990, £95. FT-23R/73R, £220 pair. FT-726R, mint condition, £450. Collect. Tel: Stockport (07974) 953018 after 6pm. Enquiries for many smaller items s.a.e. 600ZK, 0THR.

Kenwood R-5000 receiver with 118-174MHz converter completw with manual long wire antenna and balun. Also Lowe Modemaster V20 disks and handbook, *Short Wave* Frequency Guide, £465. Tel: Chester (01829) 250284

Kenwood TM-G707E dual-band 2m 45W dual-band 2m (144MHz) 45W 70cms (430MHz) 35W one year old, used once, boxed, £150 priced to sell. Tel: Michael on 0207-771 0309 weekdays or (01273) 880287.

Kenwood TS-530S, £280. Kenwood a.t.u. AT-230, £140. Kenwood desk mic MC50, £40. Hi-Mound Morse key HK707, £30. Manuals and circuits, all excellent, talk to the world for under £500. Tel: G4TLE on (01797) 230678 evenings.

Kenwood TS-870 showroom condition, only trans five times, £1000 o.v.n.o. going QRT. Tel: (01962) 878106.

Kenwood-Trio TL9222 h.f. amplifier, mint condition. Buyer to test/collec, £850. Tel: (01472) 840862 or E-mail: roy.g4whg@ntlworld.com

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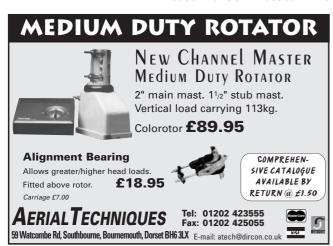
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Topical chat from the world of Amateur Radio



This time we go for a look round the recent London Radio & Computing Show.....

he weekend of April 21st/22nd saw radio enthusiasts once again queuing outside Alexandra Palace in North London. Moire than 20 years after the last radio show on this site, RadioSport brought the London Radio & Computing Show to this historic venue.

The first day of the show saw a long queue stretching down the hill. To ensure things moved as quickly as possible for those in the queue when the doors opened at 1000 hours, pre-ticketing had been arranged. During the day, groups of 20 visitors were able to visit the original BBC TV studios, which seems to have been enjoyed by all those who went on the tour.

Sunday was quieter, which is usual, but still plenty of visitors to keep many of the exhibitors busy. The two days of lectures were on a wide range of subjects and were well attended. With such topics as Sir Jules Thorn, Windows ME vs 2000, Tesla coils and Instant Morse, there was something for everyone. The Tesla coil lecturer brought a coil that produced showers of sparks at least 6ft long with a deafening noise to accompany it! A truly spectacular indoor lighting display.

When the clock struck four and it was time for the exhibitors to re-load their vehicles - with fewer boxes than came out - and head for home. Southgate ARC and RadioSport then set about clearing the hall. Hard work, but good fun!

We're unsure whether the wonderful surroundings made this Morse candidate any more confident, but it must be the best-decorated Morse testing area the examiners have ever been in!

The lull before the storm! The Southgate ARC do a great job every year with the Bring & Buy. Hundreds of items are booked in, viewed, sold and change hands over the two days. On Sunday afternoon all unsold and uncollected items are auctioned for club funds.

The Radiocommunications Agency stand a ways had lots of visitors. Whether that was because visitors to the show had lots of questions about radio regulations or because the RA had a huge number of free gifts we're not sure! They also had copies of their information booklets available for visitors. It is helpful to have the opportunity to discuss various points on

to discuss various points on the radio regulations with the people who put them into practice and to pass on the opinions of users.

Waters & Stanton had their usual huge line of tables with an equally impressive amount of stock. One of the busiest stands over the two days, visitors seemed to have some with their shopping lists and gone home happy! From scanners to amateur radios to PMR446 and accessories, they seemed to have at least one of everything.





Looking forward to the next issue of *Practical Wireless? Take a look at what's on offer!*

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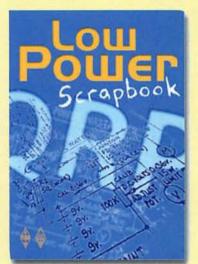


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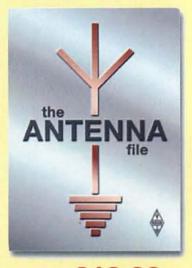
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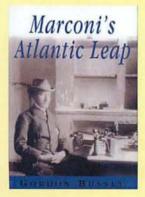


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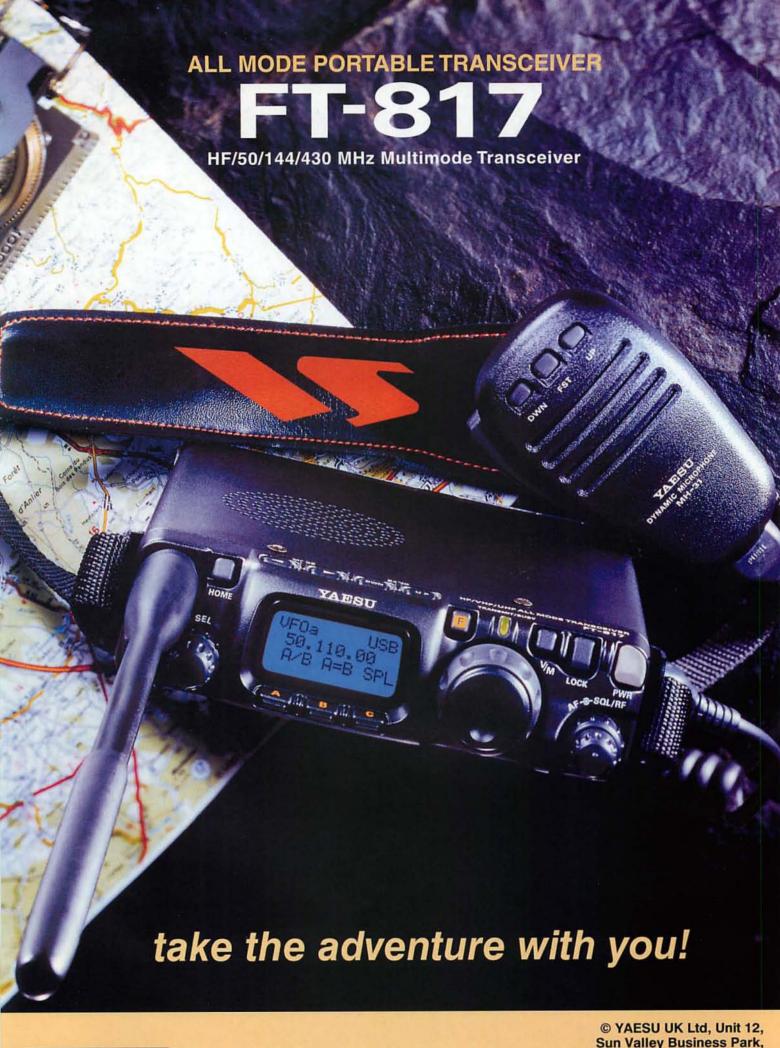
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