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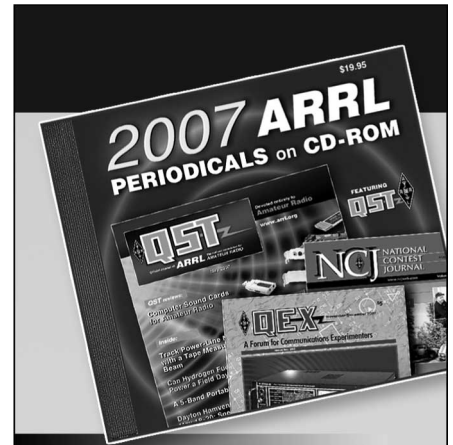
QST Issue: Feb 1977

Title: A Better-Looking Dial for the HW-101

Author: Jim Milburn, WB5BYK

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Hints and Kinks

HINTS AND MORE HINTS

I've noticed quite a few hints on ways to keep one's hand key from moving about on the table. The best and least-expensive method I've found is to use loops of masking tape between the key base and the table. Two loops are formed with about two inches of masking tape. The top half of each loop is secured to the base of the key, and the key is then pressed down on the operating table. This method keeps the key firmly in place, yet it may be removed without leaving any gummy residue on the table.

I recently built a shelf for my operating table to hold all my equipment about six inches above the surface of the table. This permits me to store my hand key, bug and keyer in the space beneath the shelf. With the keyer under the shelf, I am no longer able to see the indicator knob for adjusting keyer speed. I cemented a small piece of plastic to the knob, to protrude above the edge of the knob. By locating the position of the plastic with my fingers, I am able to determine the setting of the speed control, and thus control keyer speed without looking at the knob. This might be a useful accessory for sightless hams.

I have always envied owners of transceivers equipped with "spinner" knobs on the VFO. After seeing the frequency control knob on the Heath SB-104, I considered purchasing such a knob from Heath. Instead, I found a button with a recessed center in my XYL's sewing box, and cemented it to the edge of the knob on my SB-102. The button was selected to provide a good fit to my fingertip, and also to match the color of my rig. I can now shift effortlessly from one end of the band to the other. — *Stu Levens, WB0GK*

ACCU-MEMORY KINK

While playing with my recently completed Accu-Memory, I discovered some interesting operational modes. The RESET buttons for message selection are normally inhibited while a message is being read from the memory. However, if a full word space (U7 times out, display has stopped) exists in the message being sent, and if any RESET button is held depressed, upon completion of the word space, the message ceases and the new message is initiated from its beginning.

Here is an example: Load memory 1 with one CQ, followed by one complete word space, the DE and another word space. Load memory 2 with your call, a full space, K, and another full space. You can now send CQ in any combination of the characters CQ and your call, and repeat in any combination, by using RESET switches 1 and 2 as follows: Press RESET 1 and hold it depressed. CQ will

continuously repeat. When the last desired CQ has started, release RESET 1. When the DE commences, depress and hold RESET 2. When the characters DE are completed, the keyer will continue to send your call. RESET 1 should be depressed if you wish to continue sending CQ, or do nothing, and the character K will be sent.

This feature could prove useful in any situation requiring a variable number of repeats, such as during contests, or in DX pileups. Load the other station's call and DE in one memory location, and your call followed by K in another. The combination is easily varied to suit changing conditions, and the technique will work with any sequence of memory selection. — *Steve Lawrence, WB6RSE*

ADJUSTABLE TEMPERATURE COMPENSATION FOR VFOs

While trying to stabilize a VFO with temperature compensating capacitors, I couldn't seem to find the correct value of capacitor. I connected a 100-pF air-variable capacitor in series with a 10-pF N750 temperature compensating capacitor. After a few tries, I found a setting of the variable capacitor that yielded the desired VFO stability. — *Philip J. Reich, W2HUG*

CORRECTING ERRATIC DIRECTION INDICATORS IN CDR ROTATORS

The resistance wire in the direction indicator potentiometer in CDR rotators is terminated at each end with a rivet. The connection between the wire and the rivet often corrodes, resulting in erratic indication, or no indication at all. My solution for the problem does not require the operator to remove the rotator. After determining which terminals on the control box connect to the ends of the potentiometer, I charged up an 80- μ F, 450-volt electrolytic capacitor and discharged it across the potentiometer. The brief, high current will actually weld the connection between the wire and the rivets, without damaging the potentiometer. In one case, the connection at one end was completely open when measured with an ohmmeter, but after one "shock treatment" normal operation was restored. — *Maryan W. Plaza, W9TMU*

A BETTER-LOOKING DIAL FOR THE HW-101

After owning my HW-101 for awhile, I grew tired of looking at the plain, harsh black-and-

white dial: I think it ruins the otherwise excellent appearance of the rig, subjectively speaking. I cut a 3-1/2 \times 1-3/4-inch piece of heavy, green plastic sheet, such as that used on report covers and overhead projectors, and taped it in place between the circular dial and the dial window. Another piece of green plastic sheet, 4 \times 2-inches in size, was fitted around the meter case and behind the panel: It may be necessary to loosen the meter case in order to facilitate slipping the plastic around it for a light-tight fit. When fastening the plastic behind the dial, be sure the plastic does not interfere with the operation of the dial drive.

These simple changes give a soft green glow to both the dial and the S-meter, and greatly enhance the appearance of the rig. When the HW-101 is turned off, the plastic sheet gives the dial a "blacked out" appearance. — *Jim Milburn, WB5BYK*

ADDED SWITCH FOR CONVENIENT OPERATION OF HM-102 WATTMETER

I recently purchased a Heath HM-102 wattmeter, and have noticed that it is easy to change the position of the sensitivity control when pulling out and pushing in the switch that selects forward and reverse indication. I replaced the original switch with a miniature spdt toggle switch. If the switch is centered on the panel just below the meter, it does not affect the appearance of the instrument. — *Robert Werner, W8BTD*

FASTER RELAY RESPONSE IN THE SB-401

I am a cw traffic handler, and was disturbed by the slow response of the VOX relay in my SB-401. I connected a 10-k Ω resistor in parallel with R135, the cathode resistor for V12B. VOX relay response is now much faster. — *Andrew Teetzel, WB8KFU*

DESK-N-PORT: THE MOBILER'S DESK

One disadvantage of working mobile is not having as much space in a car as is often needed. I wanted to be able to keep my log, equipment manuals and other papers in a compact unit which would provide a small writing desk as well. I used a thick, three-ring, loose-leaf binder, and punched all documents I wanted to carry to fit. Important papers, such as a band-allocation chart and DXCC