
Upgrading the KW2000 series of HF transceivers

by M. T. Healey, G3TNO and R. Charles

There's no denying that starting in Amateur Radio these days can be an expensive business. Gone are the days when, given a couple of evenings and a well-stocked junk-box, it was possible to knock up a rig which could hold its own against the competition on the DX bands. Today a commercially-built transceiver is a virtual necessity unless one confines oneself to CW, and even then the possessors of the latest black boxes have a considerable advantage when it comes to snaring rare DX stations. With the cheapest ready-built HF rig now selling for about £450, it is not surprising that many newly-licensed (and not so newly-licensed!) amateurs turn to the second-hand-market for their gear and, fortunately, there is plenty of good second-hand equipment available. One rig which represents particularly good value for money is the KW2000 which, in its basic form, can be obtained for as little as £75, and even in its later forms rarely sells for more than £150. The purpose of this series of articles is to familiarise newcomers to the amateur field with a rig which, although now about 15 years old, is nevertheless capable of giving a very good account of itself on the HF bands, and to describe some of the many modifications which can be carried out to bring the performance of the rig up to a standard approaching that of its vastly more expensive modern competitors.

The story so far.

It may come as a surprise to anyone who has come into Amateur Radio during the last few years to learn that there was a time not very long ago when the market for ready made equipment was not dominated by the Japanese, and when at least one British manufacturer produced a rig which sold well, and was highly respected, all over the world. The time was the late 60s, and the manufacturer concerned was KW Electronics, a firm who, happily, seem to be making something of a comeback into the market after several years of virtual absence. At that time, most amateur operation took place on HF, the Class B licence having only recently been introduced and still being restricted to frequencies above