There are lots of knobs and switches on the FT102 although the front panel is relatively uncluttered by modern standards

are provided, one monitoring the signal strength, and doubling as the ALC level on transmit, the other switch selectable for PA current, compression level, plate voltage, and centre discriminator on FM receive. Having the ALC indication available separately as well as the other Tx levels is a useful feature. The internal speaker, which gave good quality with adequate output, is mounted underneath the top panel.

Inside the box

As would be expected, the internal construction is to a high standard, allowing for the fact that the modular construction generates a lot of interconnections. There was little evidence of interstage screening, except around the driver and PA area — The only real cause for criticism was a trailing wire running under the AM filter, above the pcb.

Bells and whistles

As previously mentioned, there are a large number of controls to master, most standard on a modern rig, but a few are unusual. All are mentioned in the following paragraphs for completeness.

To the left, and immediately underneath the meters, are the AC power switch, and a Heater on/off switch for the valve PA, intended as a means of power conservation during long periods of reception. This control also brings the rear mounted fan into operation which runs whenever the PA heaters are on. It is quiet in operation, and not obtrusive. This is followed by a series of 6 presettable potentiometers, which can be depressed back into the panel when set, for Vox Gain, Vox Delay, Mic Gain, Compression Level, Noise Blanker Level and Squelch (when fitted with the FM unit).

Underneath these are 6 push-buttons for MOX (manual Tx/Rx switch), RF Amplifier, Narrow Filters (if fitted), Processor On, Noise blanker On, and Monitor. This last control allows the user to monitor his own transmitted signal via an extra product detector (useful when setting up the processor), as well as for sidetone.

The remaining items on the left are the mic socket, standard 0.25" jack socket for phones, the mode switch, and a concentric RF+AF gain control. It would be unlikely that any user would want to turn the AF gain up more than about half way, after this point both your ears

DYNAMIC RANGE AS CALCULATED FROM TEST 4 1.9MHz	90dB
DYNAMIC RANGE AS CALCULATED FROM TEST 4 3.7MHz	90dB
DYNAMIC RANGE AS CALCULATED FROM TEST 4 7.05MHz	90dB
DYNAMIC RANGE AS CALCULATED FROM TEST 4 10.1MHz	88dB
DYNAMIC RANGE AS CALCULATED FROM TEST 4 14.2MHz	92dB
DYNAMIC RANGE AS CALCULATED FROM TEST 4 18.1MHz	86dB
DYNAMIC RANGE AS CALCULATED FROM TEST 4 24.5MHz	92dB
DYNAMIC RANGE AS CALCULATED FROM TEST 4 28.5MHz	80dB

Conditions: RF amp off, AGC manual