



ter for maximum power and a clean signal. You can **not** do this by watching your own signal on a TV set: it just overloads and this is the reason for those weak, distorted transmissions you get from more-money-than-brains stations. These inline detectors are sold by Fortop and Sirkit, and there are DIY designs in the RSGB VHF Handbook and the BATC Handbook.

Later on you can extend the station — there's always something to do (or buy!) You can inlay your callsign and the time into transmissions electronically, and some amateurs have gone to town on special effects. A TV typewriter (or a home computer) is also handy. You may wish to increase power: most people do. Unfortunately the cost is high if you use a linear amplifier and raising the output power from, say, 10W to 100W does not result in a tenfold improvement in range or picture quality. Valves give better linearity than transistors, and the EDL 432 linear amplifier,

equipped with a 2C39, was ideal but it is now off the market. The Microwave Modules power amplifiers are not bad but beware of overdriving them, otherwise you will have very non-linear results.

By now you will hopefully be convinced that ATV is the mode for you and I guarantee you'll get a lot of fun out of the hobby. Even when there's no RF activity you will always have construction projects for the shack, with a constant technical challenge. On local nets you will get to know kindred spirits and learn to improve your operating techniques, so that when the tropo lifts occur in spring and autumn you can work the real DX like a professional. Distances of 200 miles or more and contacts to France, Holland, Belgium and Germany are possible from most parts of the UK under lift conditions. Ten watts is quite adequate on 70cm, though a linear is always an advantage. So if you're not already into amateur television get started! See you on the air... ●

NAMES AND ADDRESS (Enclose an SAE when writing; nobody likes giving away stamps)

BATC

Brian Summers G8GQS, 13 Church Street, Gainsborough, Lincs...

FORTOP LTD.

13 Cotehill Road, Werrington, Stoke on Trent, Stafs...

MICROWAVE MODULES LTD.

Brookfield Drive, Aintree, Liverpool L9 7AN...

SIRKIT PROJECTS

'Benbow', Widcroft Road, Iwer, Slough, Bucks...

W.H. WESTLAKE

Clawton, Holsworthy, Devon...

WOOD & DOUGLAS

9 Hillcrest, Tadley, Basingstoke, Hants., RG26 6JB.