



the most popular, reliable, and easy to maintain pieces of amateur radio gear ever made.

A Brief History of the FT101

Yaesu have gradually developed the *FT101* over the years, but have not always clearly indicated the existence of design improvements by altering the model's suffix. When servicing, buying, or selling an *FT101*, it is as well to know exactly what version one is dealing with, hence it is hoped that the following will help. Second-hand values are very approximate but, for what it is worth, they are given as of late 1982 (strange but they seem to be just about what the models cost in the first place; what else in electronics can you get your money back on after ten years' use?) dates apply to UK sales and are also approximate.

1971 Early FT101 Mark 1 (present value £200-£250). The *FT101* was not originally factory fitted with the 160 metre band but many units were modified for this by the importer. The earliest model can be identified by the absence of any "160" markings on the band switch and by the use of two output transistors on the audio unit. The main complaint with this early version of the *FT101* is that it suffers from cross modulation and receiver overload — it just "falls to pieces" if used with a full-size aerial on 40 metres after dark. It was probably intended for use mainly with a mobile aerial.

1972 Late FT101 Mark 1 (present

value £250-£300). This is as above except that the audio output transistors have been replaced with a 2½" by 1½" Sanyo I.C. which is very easy to spot on the audio unit if you open the lid.

Marked as Sommerkamp FT227 in most Continental European countries

Mark numbers are unofficial and are similar to those suggested by the FT Club in the United States — see end of article

Late 1972 FT101 Mark 2 (present value £250-£300). This model looks externally as above except "160" is marked on the band switch, there are larger DC/DC inverter transistors and a larger heat sink is fitted at the rear. Internally new circuit boards give more IF gain and less RF gain and the RF protection diode is removed and replaced with a fuse lamp. The noise blanker circuitry, which was part of the IF unit in the *Mark 1*, is re-designed as a separate board and perches on top of the VFO unit. Together with extra filters to clean up the transmitted signals, these modifications result in a considerably improved receiver and transmitter performance.

1973 Late FT101 Mark 2 (present value £260-£310). This unit is the same as the earlier *FT101 Mark 2* but is fitted with an extra receive audio pre-amplifier. This small printed circuit board, the circuitry of which is given in Fig 1, is mounted behind the mode switch.

1974 Early FT101B (present value £275-£325). The rig is only slightly different from late *Mark 2s* but is clearly marked on the front panel

"FT101B" and sports two LED's to indicate clarifier and internal VFO operation. Inside the set the noise blanker board plugs in behind the mixer/high frequency IF unit, and an eight pole SSB filter is fitted to improve receiver selectivity.

1975 Late FT101B (present value £300-£350). As above but large Sanyo IC is replaced with smaller unit thus allowing audio pre-amplifier to be removed from behind the mode switch and incorporated in the AF unit.

Late 1975 FT101E Mark 1 (present value £325-£375). This unit is the same as late *FT101B* but is marked on the front panel "FT101E" and is fitted with an early version of Yaesu's speech processor. This early processor is not particularly successful or convenient due to the lack of an external level control.

1976 FT101 Mark 2 (present value £350-£400). In this model, the speech processor is completely redesigned and a dual gang potentiometer is fitted in the clarifier position on the front panel labelled "CLAR/-LEVEL". The processor is more convenient and effective than that fitted in the *FT101E Mark 1*.

1977/78 FT101E Mark 3 (present value £375-£425). DC/DC converter transistors reduced in size as per *FT101 Mark 1*. The power supply and noise blanker circuits are altered. This version can be identified by the noise blanker board which is numbered PB1582 and incorporates a 2.72 MHz. (No crystal, and board marked PB1292 on earlier units).