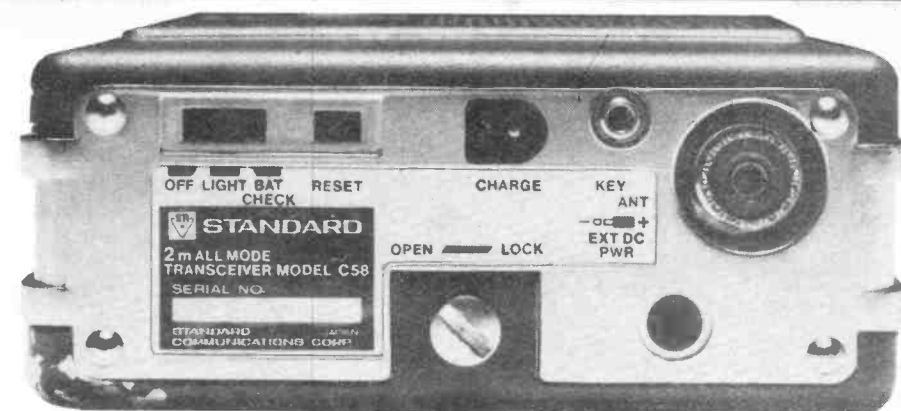


preventing accidental re-writing. If an empty memory is selected an 'M' will flash until the memory is filled. When recalling memory frequencies, the rig will indicate if the mode selected when the frequency was memorised is different to the mode chosen when recalling the memory. Indeed, the simplex/repeater shift key will change the recalled frequency since it is operative upon the displayed frequency. Tuning away from the recalled frequency is possible and does not disturb the stored data. Scanning is ingenious in that only frequencies within the megahertz band selected will be scanned in accordance with the step pre-selected. The display will indicate that this facility is in use. The FM mode uses a system whereby scanning will cease when an occupied frequency is found, whereas in the SSB modes, scanning continues regardless of a signal because such signals do not lift the squelch. Scanning is not possible from the microphone unit, and once scanning is halted it must be re-started manually. FM scanning for 'clear' frequencies is not possible. Repeater operation using the C58 took some learning and seems unique in that the repeater input frequency must be selected and then the repeater shift installed. This is OK once the operator has become accustomed to it. The repeater shift is selected and the output frequency tuned. If scanning the band in simplex and a repeater output is heard, it is necessary to retune to the input frequency as the introduction of a direct repeater shift will simply move the receive frequency and not the transmit frequency.

A rather useful feature for repeater operation is a tone burst controllable from the microphone. A second push to the PTT button will generate a one second tone burst at 1750Hz. An aspect which seems to require a lengthy and detailed explanation is the LCD readout (certainly according to the manual supplied). I had great problems during darkness to read the display at all. The internal light is inadequate and while just illuminating the 'S' meter, it does little for the display. I used a torch to overcome the problem!!

This readout consists of four seven segment figures as well as some symbols to identify the use of various facilities. Being just a four figure display it is necessary for some



figures to be taken for granted. For example, 144.1234 MHz under the 5/25 kHz step setting is shown as '4.123' — yet under the 1 kHz setting as '.1234'. The operating frequency is immediately obvious, just by looking at the front panel.

## Quality

The microphone supplied is attached via a coiled flex to a seven-pin plug. Although producing good audio — in fact excellent audio reports were obtained when using SSB, the microphone is not very easy to operate. The PTT switch is located off centre to the top of the unit and had a strong spring. On several occasions I experienced difficulty in depressing the switch for long periods as constant downward pressure is required.

The up-down frequency control button on the front of the mic stands proud of its inset, meaning that it could be accidentally touched thus changing the operating frequency during a QSO. Continuous depression of this switch will cause a continual increase or decrease of the display frequency within the MHz selected. The C58 will run on either

internal batteries or from an external regulated DC power source of 13.8V, according to the manual. The equipment worked quite satisfactorily on my 12V supply and produced 900mW drawing a current of 560mA on FM TX and 90mA RX. The internal batteries (10 Ni-Cads or 9 dry cells) are split into two groups. The first of four (3 if Ni-Cads used) powers the memory and 'switch off' back-up, while the others drive the rig. Because the back-up power comes from the internal batteries, there is a real danger of losing the memory frequencies should the battery compartment be removed for replacement or maintenance, or should Ni-Cads become 'flat'. The equipment ran well from its batteries although they seemed to run down rapidly.

Certainly they did not last as long as a fully charged battery pack on an IC2E would last. While portable, I used the rubber helical aerial supplied which fits the BNC socket on the top of the set. There is an SO239 socket on the rear panel like the 290R. It was not possible to access the local repeater with just the 1W, and the higher output power from the 290R was advantageous in this particular case. A number of

## CORRECTION - APRIL

We would like to apologise for a mix-up over an advertisement on page 16 of our April issue. The name is wrongly shown as AH Supplies; it should have read AJH Electronics, 20 Barby Lane, Hillmorton, Rugby, Warks CV22 5QJ. Our sincere apologies to both companies for the inconvenience caused.