

NEW PRODUCTS

Datong v Woodpecker

Datong Electronics Ltd. is developing a self-synchronising noise blanker to remove 'Woodpecker' interference pulses.

Dr. David Tong told *Ham Radio Today* that he got the idea when he first saw the AEA Moscow Muffler (reviewed in this issue) and decided there was a market for an automatic 'Muffler'.

Dr. Tong has a working prototype, and hopes to have the unit in full production in a few weeks.

The device connects in series with both the aerial and loudspeaker of a receiver or transceiver and is completely automatic. Not only does the unit synchronise itself to the Woodpecker pulses, but adjusts its own blanking width to match that of the particular Woodpecker. What's more, it can deal with more than one Woodpecker at a time!

The only adjustment needed by the operator is to select the pulse repetition frequency (10 or 16Hz).

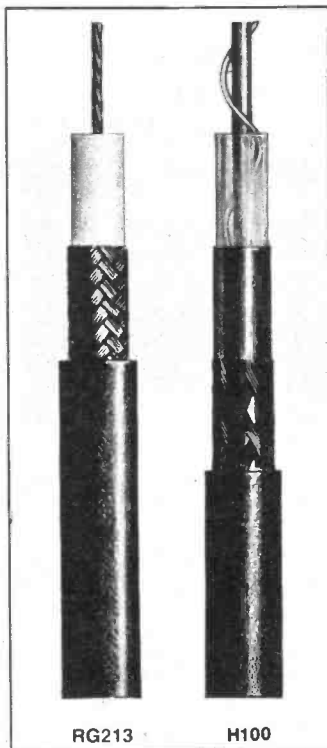
The unit is housed in an extruded aluminium case, size 150 x 90 x 42mm. Further details from Datong Ltd., Spence Mills, Mill Lane, Bramley, Leeds LS13 3HE. Tel 0532 552461

Cheap UHF coax

A new 50 ohm cable looks like being good news for microwave enthusiasts, offering low loss at a reasonable price. The new cable, made by the Pope company in Holland, is called *H100*, and is designed to bridge the gap between braided types such as RG213/UR67 and the more expensive solid-copper types such as Andrew *LDF4/50*.

Originally designed for the 934MHz Citizens' Band, the supplier claims it is useful for all bands between 144 and 1296MHz. The attenuation figures per 100 metres are: 2.2dB at 28MHz; 5.5dB at 144MHz; 9.1dB at 432MHz and 15dB at 1296MHz. Comparable figures for RG213 are 3.6dB; 8.5dB; 15.8dB; and 31dB respectively. The cable is slightly lighter in weight than RG213 yet will handle more power, and fits ordinary PL259 or N type plugs.

The importer, W.H. Westlake of Devon, says the only disadvantage of *H100* is a bending radius of 150mm, compared to RG213's radius of 100mm. They charge 80



pence per metre, with discounts for lengths of 50m or more, compared to 50 pence per metre for small quantities of UR67. W.H. Westlake, Clawton, Holsworthy, Devon.

Trapped dipoles

There are several new trapped dipoles being added to the range of 'Anti-TVI' aerials produced by G2DYM Aerials of Tiverton, Devon. At the top of the range is a dipole with no less than four pairs of traps, providing half-wave resonance on the 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28MHz bands. As the aerial is fed with 75 ohm balanced feeder, it can also easily be matched to 50 ohms on the 10, 18 and 24MHz amateur bands with an ATU. The aerial can also be used as a Marconi-T vertical, fed against earth, on the 1.81MHz band. This aerial has a power rating of 1000 Watts.

Other aerials in the range offer a combination of various bands, and the ability to fit into a reduced space by using 'tails', ie. vertical sections hanging from each end insulator.

Also in the range is a new trapped unipole, with various combinations of bands and numbers of traps available. These are trapped end-fed wires, designed to be loaded against earth or (preferably) radials.

Details from G2DYM Aerials, Cobhamden Castle, Uplowman, Nr. Tiverton, Devon. Tel 03986 215

Stick-on screening

Adding internal screens to homebrew equipment can be a bit difficult if the equipment has already been built and extra screening is then found necessary! RFI Shielding Limited have brought out a self-adhesive foil that could solve this and many other problems. *Alumashield* consists of a 0.04mm thick aluminium foil which is laminated to a 1.5mm thick layer of PVC foam. The self-adhesive glue is protected by backing paper.

The maker claims that as well as screening otherwise unprotected enclosures, *Alumashield* can be used with printed circuit boards to provide a mounting pressure pad as well as shielding.

RFI Shielding Ltd. says another application is lining the inside of inspection covers of individually screened modular equipment. "In this application *Alumashield* provides a good electrical contact between the cover and the inter-stage screening dividers within each compartment. When the cover is screwed down the dividers sink into the material and the resilience of the foam takes up any distortion in either the cover or the dividers."

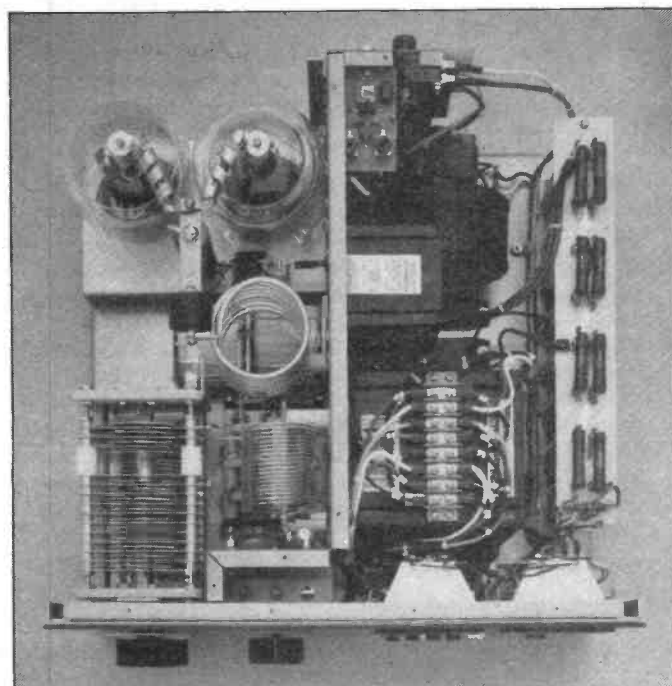
Alumashield is also available

with copper or tinned copper foil. The tinned copper variety looks like being the most useful to amateurs because it can be soldered easily, and because it is available in 300 x 900mm sheets for approximately £5, whereas the smallest sheet of the aluminium sort is 1m square, costing about £14. RFI Ltd. says it's willing to supply amateurs with single sheets. More details are available from John Collins of RFI Shielding Ltd., Warner Drive, Springwood Industrial Estate, Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 7YW. Tel Braintree (STD 0376) 42626

Luxuries

This gadget would look good on the licence application form — you know, the bit where they ask you how you intend to check you're not churning out horrible sproggies. The Ando AC-8211 RF spectrum analyser will measure anything between 100kHz and 1700MHz, from -110 to +20dBm. It will display signals with a bandwidth of between 100MHz and 20kHz per horizontal division.

Here's the rub. It costs £4,350. And here's another rub. The VAT is an extra £652.50! Don't ring us, ring Aspen Electronics Ltd., 2/3 Kildare Close, Eastcote, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 9UR. Tel 01-868 1188. Better ring your bank manager as well.



PT2000A HF linear amplifier, part of the Viewstar range