

and one begins wonder how Standard cram it all in. The second point to notice is the angled front panel, which makes the display and controls nicely accessible, with certain provisos, when the rig is mounted low down in a car. However, here is where a problem arises, for there are four function switches mounted near the front but on top of the unit. This means that the rig cannot be mounted flush with the dash or, when used as a base station, used on a shelf higher than eye level. A nice touch is the fold back bench stand (how many times has this part been lost when transferring other rigs from car to shack?). The mobile mount was adequate but the review model's was a little stiff to use (perhaps it will loosen up). As mentioned before, the main problem with mounting is that the unit must protrude from any vertical surface and therefore the mount must be fixed quite a long way behind the rig's centre of gravity. This produced considerable vibration of the transceiver when using the available bolt holes in my vehicle, which can't be good for it.

The microphone fits neatly into the hand but the PTT button is a little small for my liking and could cause quite a bit of finger cramp on long QSOs. The general impression

of the 5800 is one of a very well put together, neat and tidy rig (and oh so small!).

Inside

When the top and bottom panels are removed it soon becomes apparent how Standard gets it all in. The lower board, which looks like paxolin (yeuk), is quite frankly a mess. There is no real attempt at micro-miniature components and so the inside is obviously very crowded. However, what really spoils it is the profusion of wires linking parts of the same board and coming from the panel controls. OK, so it's a small rig with nowhere to hide these wires, as in different models, but surely they could have made more extensive use of ribbon cables or flexible PCB's (as in the IC2E). A rather better plan would have been to spend more time designing the PCB itself to eliminate the need for all these flying leads. I feel that if modification or servicing is needed, it would be very difficult on this board. Not surprisingly, the speaker is a mere 2" in diameter, however, it does a remarkable job considering it's size but I would still recommend an external device wherever possible (10% distortion in a noisy vehicle is rather difficult to listen to for

long periods).

The top board looks more acceptable; agreed it is still very crowded, but more plug/sockets are used and there is an attempt to route cables round the sides. This means that at least you can see where you are. Being dedicated to the PLL and digital circuitry, this board looks more professional (fibreglass, shadow masked etc.). The inclusion of a small piggy-back board containing the toneburst circuitry indicates the European version of the rig.

The final board making up the transceiver is the power module and its associated drive circuitry. This is mounted at the back in a metal enclosure and with a little dismantling should be fairly easy to get at.

Generally, this is not the type of rig to play around with unless you have experience of fitting quarts into pint pots.

Operating Impressions

With such a small front panel, the controls are necessarily packed in tight. This presents a few problems when operating; for instance, the mode switch is very awkward, being concentric with the RIT control. The squelch control is even worse and has to be adjusted from underneath, if one is not to alter the volume setting (it was very difficult to use when mobile). A little more room between volume/squelch and the main tuning dial control would have helped here. While on the subject of mobile operation, again we have a rig with a profusion of similar looking, multi-function buttons which require very little travel to operate them. This makes the rig confusing, not to say dangerous, to use in the car. The microphone plug obscures many of the push buttons when the set is mounted to the left of the operator and I feel that, for true mobile use, many of the features of this rig must remain unused; certainly any change of mode is risky. The five digit, green, fluorescent display is rather dim and difficult to read on a sunny day (yes, there was one in December!). Also there is an annoying multiplexing flicker present.

Generally, I was not terribly impressed by the layout of the controls from a mobile point of view. As a base station or /P, it is a different

