unsquelched condition (I would have thought that this state should be obvious) low power operation and unit in transmit.

I don't propose to give a blow by blow account of what each control does. It is sufficient to say that the computerised *PCS4000* offers every permutation of the basic transmit/receive function that you can imagine and then a few more on top. I think that it is rather more useful to look at the basic radio system performance in a review. After all, that is what its all about... isn't it?

In use

Programming the memory has quite a lot in common with computer operating. It looks difficult at first sight, but once you understand the programming language, it is no great task. Having said this, it is questionable whether you need all the memory facilities which this box offers. I personally think that the height of evolution of the FM 2m mobile box was embodied in the Icom *IC-240E*. From then on, everything went downhill. That machine had a good basic performance — not great but good — and it sported only those controls which had a direct bearing on the basic operation of a radio telephone.

The *IC-240* had a nice, big/click stop knob to select the channel. It had a simplex/repeater switch. It had volume and squelch. It had all the basics and no more. As a result, you could reliably operate the set blindfold and with one arm behind your back. I couldn't do this with the review Azden set or any of the Icom successors.

The microphone control buttons on the *PCS4000* could provide all the frequency setting functions but I found that you always had to check the result of an operation on the digital display on the set's front panel. Get the operating sequence wrong — which is very easily done — and you would find youself transmitting with a 600kHz shift for an intended simplex contact or working on the wrong frequency all together. I often found myself stepping through the memory channels — after inadvertent operation of the M1 button — rather than the desired 25kHz steps that I wanted.

The audio quality of the rig, in both transmit and receive was generally very good. The sound from the small internal speaker had a satisfactory tonal balance for mobile use. Only one signal report suggested that the transmission lacked slightly in top. The yellow digital display was barely bright enough to read in high ambient daylight conditions. The FM limiter circuitry rendered the unit reasonably insensitive to impulse type interference such as ignition noise.

Faults

As delivered, the unit appeared to have a slight fault on transmission. There was a regular *tick... tick tick* noise on the transmission which, although not impairing intelligibility, was annoying for stations at the listening end. As of the time of writing, I haven't spoken about the problem with the importers, Waters and Stanton. However I imagine that this ticking noise is a one off fault with the review sample and would not normally be encountered. Try before you buy though. There is a potentially more intransigent problem with the *PCS4000* which appears to be connected with the RF design.

The transceiver displays a number of spurious responses. In practice, this means that you can be listening for example on 145.5MHz with a police communications system occasionally opening the squelch. While the Home Office shows little scruple in adopting amateur frequencies for its own use, I seriously doubt whether it has actually taken over the 2m calling frequency. I noted several cases of high band breakthrough during the course of the review.

I must state that I live out in the country in an area of Sussex not particularly noted for the RF congestion.