

NEW PRODUCTS

HF vertical aerial

The *R3* half-wave end fed vertical aerial is a new addition to the Cushcraft range, and it covers the 14, 21 and 28MHz amateur bands. Resonance and matching is achieved by a combination of traps and a motorised tuning unit at the base. Because of the high driving point impedance there is no need for an elaborate system of earthing and/or radials.

The *R3* comes complete with a remote control box for the ATU, enabling a claimed VSWR of 1.2:1 (or better) to be achieved at the 50 ohm feed point at any frequency in any of the three bands.

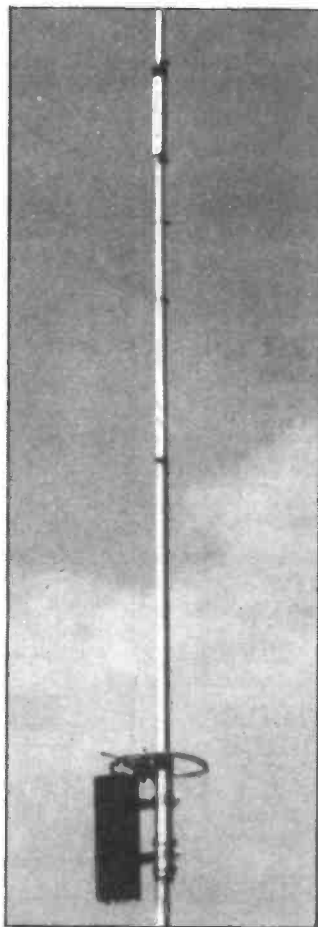
The claimed specification is: gain 3dB (the catalogue does not say what reference is used for gain measurement); horizontal radiation pattern — omnidirectional; power rating 2000W PEP; height 29.9ft (9.13m); weight 11.5lbs (5.2kg); voltage required 110/240V AC; control line voltage 24VAC; termination S0239; material — seamless aluminium; control box dimensions 6x4x4 inches (152x100x100mm); wind survival 100mph (160.9km/h).

Further details from Northern Communications, 299-303 Claremount Road, Claremount, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 6AW. Tel (0422) 40792.

Callsign badge

Wisbech Amateur Radio has brought out a new callsign sticker. It is made of magnetic material and will 'stick' to any reasonably flat surface. The callsign is black against a white background, with the legend "amateur radio station" in red. The badge is 224x76mm in size and costs £4.50 (or £5.25 for a reflecting version) from Wisbech Amateur Radio, 20-21 Norfolk Street, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 2LF Tel 0945 581099.

(The Editor thanks the supplier for the freebie, but points out that his first name is Frank, not Frank!)



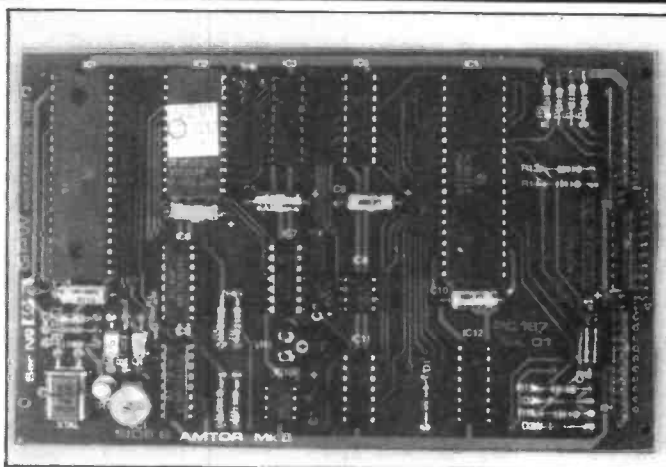
AMTOR add-on

The ICS Electronics *Amtor Mk. II* board is designed to convert an existing RTTY station to the AMTOR mode.

It connects between the terminal unit and the keyboard/printer, as well as to the PTT line of the transceiver.

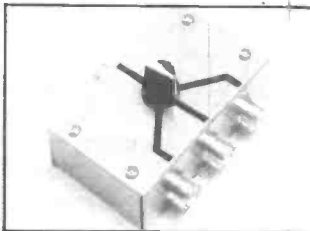
The interface to the *Mk. II* board is at TTL levels, and a stabilised 5 volt 400mA supply is needed. Nine externally mounted LED status indicators and six externally mounted switches must be connected to the board to make it operational.

Designed by Peter Martinez



G3PLX, the *Amtor Mk. II* board is compatible with all AMTOR stations currently on the air. It is available from ICS Electronics Ltd at £107 for a kit, or £135 built and tested. Details from ICS Electronics Ltd., PO Box 2, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0NX. Tel. (024 365) 590.

Antenna switch



The Drae 3 way antenna switch has a claimed insertion loss of less than 0.3dB at 145MHz, and less than 1dB at up to 500MHz. It has S0239 connectors and is rated at 250W RMS at 50 ohms.

Unused aerials are connected to a high value resistor to drain static build-up. The switch, which has silver-plated brass contacts, is connected to the sockets by a PCB transmission line.

The antenna switch is available from either Drae stockists, or directly from the manufacturer: Davtrend Ltd., the Sanderson Centre, Lees Lane, Gosport, Hants PO12 3UL (Tel Gosport 20141) at a cost of £15.40.

Moonbounce magazine

The *Lunar Letter Magazine* is a monthly 44-page American publication designed for VHF/UHF enthusiasts, covering all forms of weak signal propagation, with a special interest in EME.

Regular columns include several band reports of mainly American interest, including *Terrestrial Reports*, and *EME News* reports for each of the 144, 220 and 432 MHz bands. There is a letters page, a *DX report*, *Swap and Sell* and constructional articles.

The magazine is now in its second year, and is imported into the UK by: D Parker, 14 Moorside Crescent, Drighlington, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD11 1HS. A year's subscription costs £11.



AMATEUR RADIO STATION

G4JST