

Fig.3. The completed board on test - not the neatest of assemblies, but it worked!

half of the screen. I waited until I copied the usual 'PSE K K' and, with some trepidation, pressed 'CTRL T'. The word 'RECEIVE' altered to 'TRANSMIT' on the top left of the screen and I called him. "1300P I300P DE G3RDG PSE K K K", and pressed 'CTRL R' to go back to 'receive' and copy his reply. I got it OK and the QSO continued along the normal lines. Fig. 4 shows a typical short QSO using the equipment. Figs. 5 and 6 show the appearance of the screen, (a) when the MENU is displayed, and (b) when the program is in operation.

So long as the operation of the two LEDs is watched (thus keeping the Rx in tune), good copy can be obtained, but I must point out that care has to be taken when receiving RTTY signals. I mentioned this in my last article and I make no apologies for drawing it to your attention again. If the Rx is not tuned carefully, it may be thought that the selectivity and response are not sufficient, BUT provided that the tuning dial is handled gently, and the LEDs watched, then, one can get optimum copy under very difficult conditions.

The ability to type ahead was found to be a great help, particularly when a question was asked by the other end. One could start making the reply slowly and then be ready for him when he passed the transmission back. An important point to remember, however, is that you have to clear from the 'transmit' part of the screen the message that you have placed there and just sent. Otherwise you find that you have gone over to transmit and are sending out the

message you previously made up! I have done this on two or three occasions and I am very careful now. The 'transmit' half of the screen is cleared by pressing 'CTRLK'. Also found very useful were the pre-programmed messages. I put the station details in one of them and then only had to press one key to get them all transmitted without a mistake.

## Mini-face

I also had sent to me for review a very interesting little box. Johnny Melvin has produced a complete unit, using the same circuitry as the interface discussed above but much smaller, the whole thing being completely self-contained. It derives all its power from the BBC computer and measures only 155mm by 90mm by 33mm high. It is in an attractive off

white case with the two LEDs for tuning at the right hand side front and the 'power on' LED on the left. They are of the miniature type as are the three switches, ON/OFF, NOR-MAL/REVERSE and WIDE/NARROW SHIFT. The rear edge has a standard 20 pin IDC connector that only reguires a 20 way double ended ribbon cable to interface direct into the BBC USER PORT on the underside of the computer. The receiver and transceiver connections are taken to a standard 3.5mm stereo jack mounted on the back. There is also a potentiometer on the PCB at the back to regulate the tones for the microphone input.

You may well ask what does one do for the PTT connections that I mentioned above. Well, in this case you use the VOX facility of the transceiver

Fig.4. A typical QSO using the equipment.

RYRYPYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRY

G3RDG G3RDG DE 12BEM 12BEM TNX MY NAME IS ELIO AND GTH CREMORNA RST 599
599 599 VERY GOOD SIGNAL PSE MY REPORT OSL VIA BUREAU PSE KKKK
RYRYRYPYRY.... 12BEM DE G3RDG... ROGER ROGER ELIO.. YOUR RST IS 589
HERE IN LONDON.. A FINE SIGNAL. THE RIG HERE IS TRIO TS820S, AND DIPOLE
ANTENNA.. WX IN LONDON IS CLOUDY BUT NO RAIN.. QSL FOR SURE VIA BUREAU SO
73 FROM LONDON TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.. BIBI
12BEM DE G3RDG AR SK ++CW IDENT++ ~12:44 GMT

RUZBQUJCAN RAFCRMB