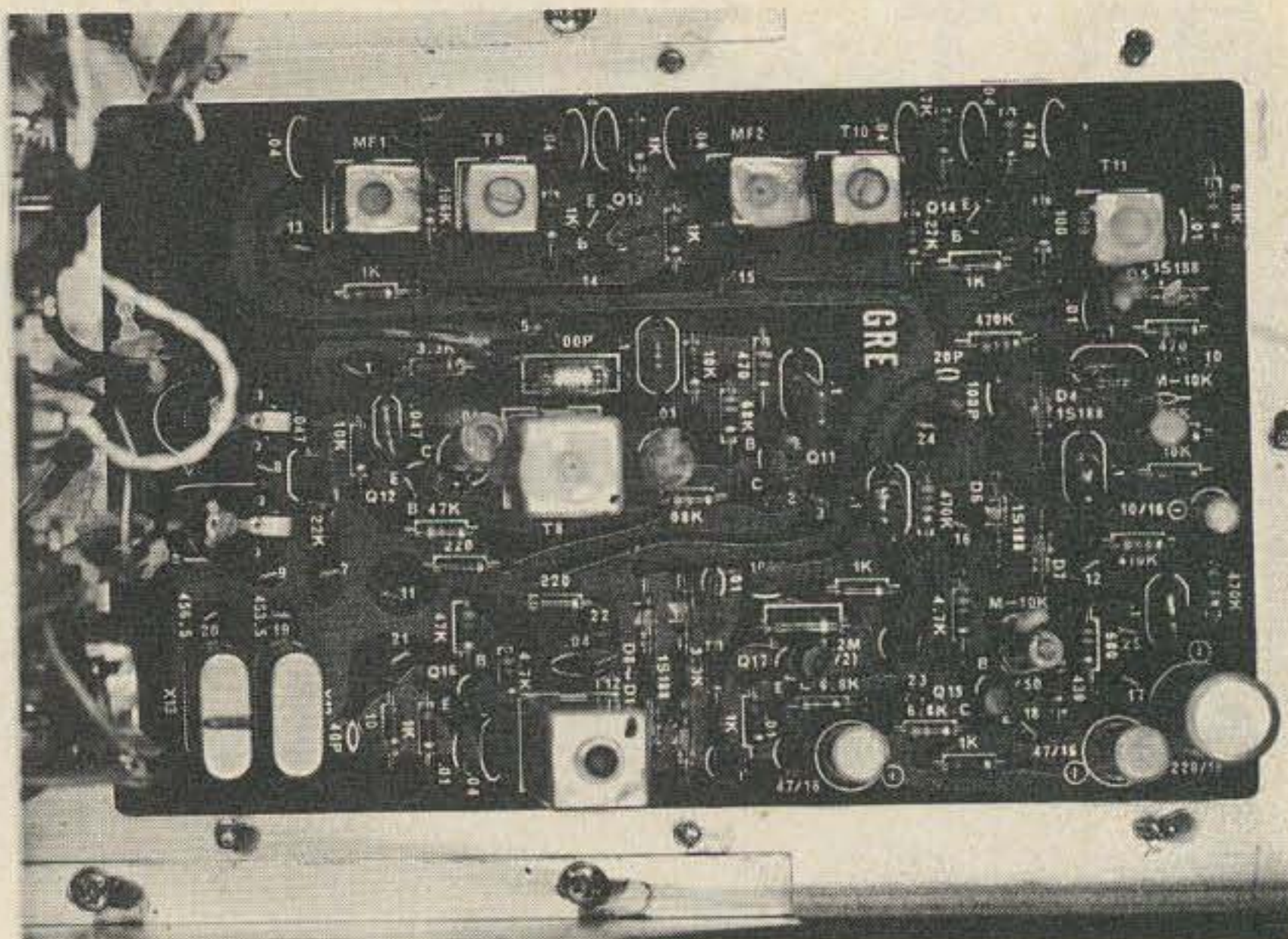


73 Reviews The Allied AX-190 Ham Receiver



If all receivers performed as well as they looked, a ham would have no trouble in obtaining a good one. The trick is finding the good receiver that is behind the pretty panel. The Allied AX-190 is such a one. Behind the brushed aluminum front are five printed circuit boards that hold all components in very neat arrangements. On one of them is the four FET front end which is rated at $0.5 \mu\text{V}$ sensitivity at 10 dB S/N. Our test unit performed very well with no more than a longwire, and we have no reason to doubt the accuracy of the manufacturer's statement. This receiver picked up many weak stations that other radios could not hear. The preselector is very sharp and sensitive and really peaks up signals while rejecting interference from strong off-frequency stations. The receiver covers eighty through all of ten meters in 500 kHz bands. There is also provision for adding another segment of the 3.5–10 MHz range.

For those strong signals that cause QRM, the Q-Multiplier does an excellent job of eliminating heterodynes and peaking the desired signal. This feature is certainly a desirable one for CW and SSB ops. Signals here were raised by thirty to forty decibels, and when the rejection mode was selected, annoying whistles were eliminated.

CW and SSB are received well by means of a four diode balanced modulator circuit. The first oscillator and bfo are crystal controlled for sharp and accurate tuning. The audio is clean and pure, and almost hi-fi — in short, very comfortable. Dual con-

version and ceramic filter add measurably to easy listening.

For those who might want to listen to AM stations that are outside the ham bands, an AM position and AM with ANL are provided on the function switch. Incidentally, the diode noise limiter performs very well to take out ignition and electrical noises (i.e., the fluorescent light on my desk).

As for minor features that add to the pleasure of owning the AX-190, there is a 25 and 100 kHz calibrator for accuracy of the smooth tuning vfo knob which has one kilohertz markings on the resettable skirt. The rig also has provision for operation directly off of 12V dc, making the rig valuable for mobile, Field Day, emergency, and portable use. Antenna input is a common SO-239 chassis connector, provision for muting, and vfo output round out the features of this receiver. One other valuable feature of the rig is the accompanying instruction manual. It is complete with an excellent theory of operation section that includes excerpts of the complete schematic showing the various stages in their individual and combined design states.

For the ham who is looking for a good receiver, portable, or emergency receiver, at \$249.95 this receiver needs careful consideration. Novices in particular should keep in mind that a few extra dollars on the receiver purchase can add proportionally greater enjoyment to his operating experiences. And when upgrading his license, this receiver will keep its value in the station.