



The Gonset Sidewinder

Wayne Green W2NSD/1

Since sideband is still in the early stages of use up on two meters I was quite surprised to see the ads for the Gonset two meter Sidewinder a few months back. I didn't expect to see anything like that for a couple more years. I think that all of the regular two meter denizens will join me in stating that we are all happy to see this piece of equipment available.

Sideband is just as advantageous on two meters as it is down on 20. Back in the days when it was possible to have a clear channel on 20 (I'm *old*, eh?), the early users of sideband were able to appreciate the unbelievable way we could get out, even with low power. If you've done any listening to the sidebanders on two meters you know that they are able to work over extraordinary distances.

Which brings us to the Gonset Sidewinder. This is a far cry from the old Gonset Communicator I. With this package you not only have an AM transmitter (6 watts input and receiver, but also a sideband transceiver (20 watts PEP) and everything except the higher power transmitter stages is transistorized. The power supply unit snaps right on the back of the transceiver. They have both twelve volt dc and 115 vac supplies, but I think I would go for the 12 volt job and then make a small power pack to deliver the 12 vdc at 8 amps required for shack use rather than buy both supplies. Then you could whip it into the car whenever you wanted.

The Sidewinder is small enough to fit in even a sports car. Bless transistors. And the power it requires shouldn't hurt your car. I counted 21 transistors and three tubes, ending up with a 6360 in the output. I.F.'s are on 15 mc and 9 mc.

That's all fine and good, but how does it work? Shortly after the Sidewinder was delivered up here in the wilds of New Hampshire I was heading for 73 Mountain to see what would happen. I hooked it up to a spare two meter antenna and listened around. I am not sorry to report that my 417A converter had a slight edge over it in sensitivity. Transistors may be pushing Nuvisitors at two meters these days, but the 417A still can do a little better. No matter, there were darned few stations that I couldn't hear quite well on the Sidewinder. The stability of the receiver isn't important on AM, but it is greatly appreciated on SSB.

I tuned to 144.1, where the SSB gang hangs out, and called a quick "break" at the first opportunity. W2LVQ was on the channel having a round table with a station in Plaistow, New Hampshire and Boston. He came right back when I spoke up . . . not bad for 20 watts PEP at 200 miles, eh? All three critically listened to the signal and gave it a clean bill of health. Since then many SSB stations have been worked down into Southern New Jersey, over 300 miles from here. I don't do an awful lot better than that with my kilowatt on AM.

Gonset has worked out the tuning system well. There is a switch for selecting the megacycle and both fast and slow tuning of the main dial for plain tuning and zeroing in on SSB.

The Sidewinder sells for \$399.50. The dc power supply is \$79.50 and the ac supply is \$67.75. This is pretty remarkable when you consider that the Communicator IV was up over \$400! For not much more you have everything you had in the IV plus stability, SSB and CW! I suspect that the Sidewinder will put a lot more fellows on two meter sideband.

Letter

Dear Wayne:

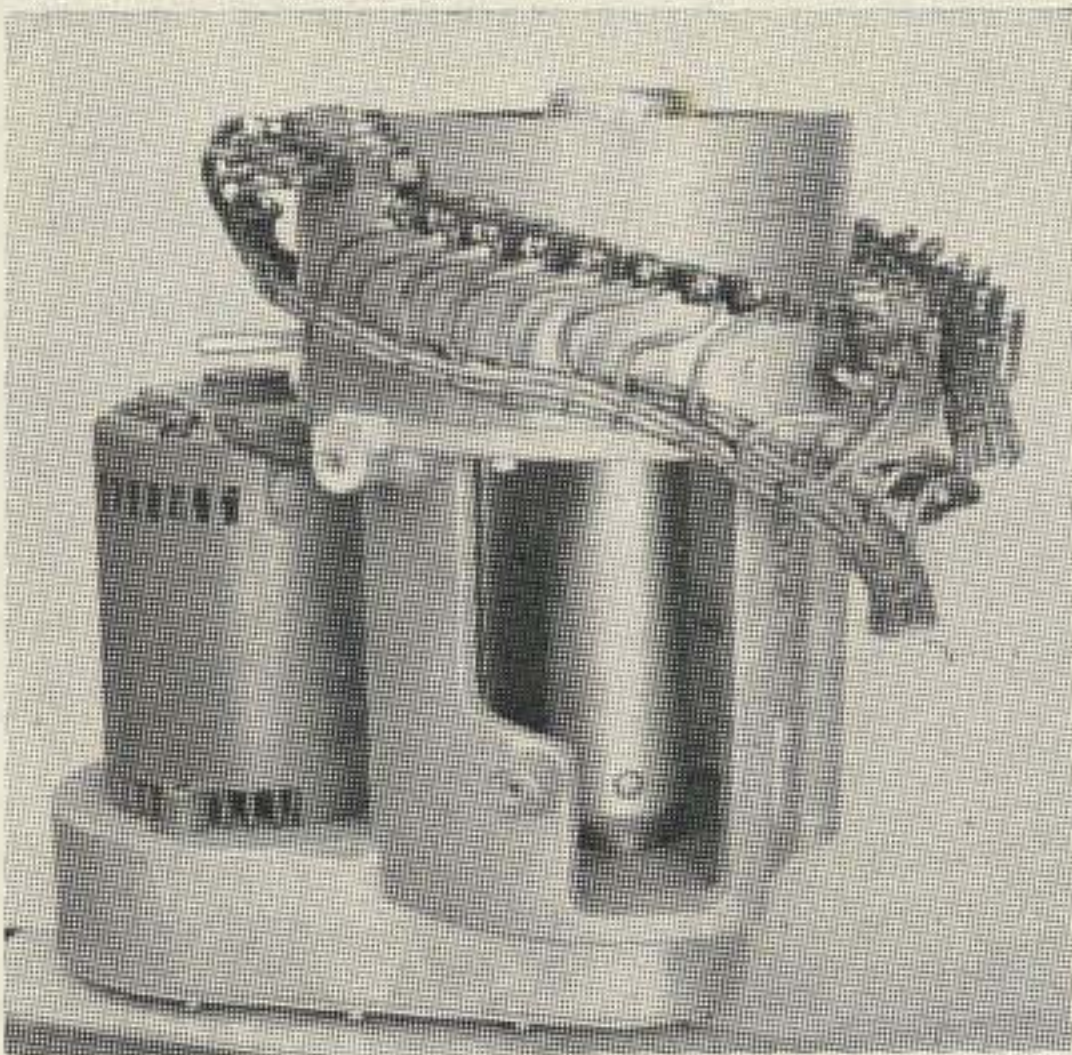
Your competition sure has put much needed life and renewed vigor into previously decaying ARRL. Keep up your good work. Heretofore ARRL has had a monopoly in the amateur radio business and therefore had a tendency to go dead at the top. In any field of endeavor competition is usually the best productive process upon final anlaysis. ARRL should not be allowed to have a monopoly in the field of ham radio. Don't let the ARRL hounds get too close to your tail. Good luck.

African Hams

Name of Country and Prefix	Permanent licences.	National society	Licences granted to Visitors
BURUNDI (9U5)	Less than 10	No	Yes
CAMEROUN (TJ8)	None	No	Yes
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (TL8)	Less than 10	No	Yes
CONGO REPUBLIC (9Q5)	Over 120	U.C.R.A. Leopoldville	Yes
DAHOMAY (TY2)	Less than 5	No	Yes
GABON (TR8)	Less than 10	No	Yes
GHANA (9G1)	About 50	G.A.R.S. Accra	Yes
GUINEA (7G1)	None	No	Occasionally
IVORY COAST REPUBLIC (TU2)	Less than 20	No	Yes
MALI (TZ)	None	No	Occasionally
MAURETANIA (5T5)	Less than 10	No	-
NIGERIA (5N2)	About 40	N.A.R.S. Lagos	-
NIGER REPUBLIC (5U7)	Less than 10	No	'Dxpedition' operation discouraged
REPUBLIC of the CONGO (TN8)	About 25	Closely linked with R.E.F.	Yes
RWANDA (9X5)	Less than 20	No	Occasionally
SENEGAL (6W8)	Less than 25	Closely linked with R.E.F.	'Dxpedition' operation discouraged
SIERRA LEONE (9L1)	Less than 10	No	Administration favourable to Amateur Radio
SOMALI REPUBLIC (6O)	Less than 20	No	Yes
SUDAN (ST)	None	No	-
TCHAD (TT8)	Less than 10	Closely linked with R.E.F.	No knowledge of visitors obtaining licences.
TOGO (5V)	None	No	Visitors have obtained licences in the past.
UPPER VOLTAIC REPUBLIC (XT2)	Less than 5	No	" "

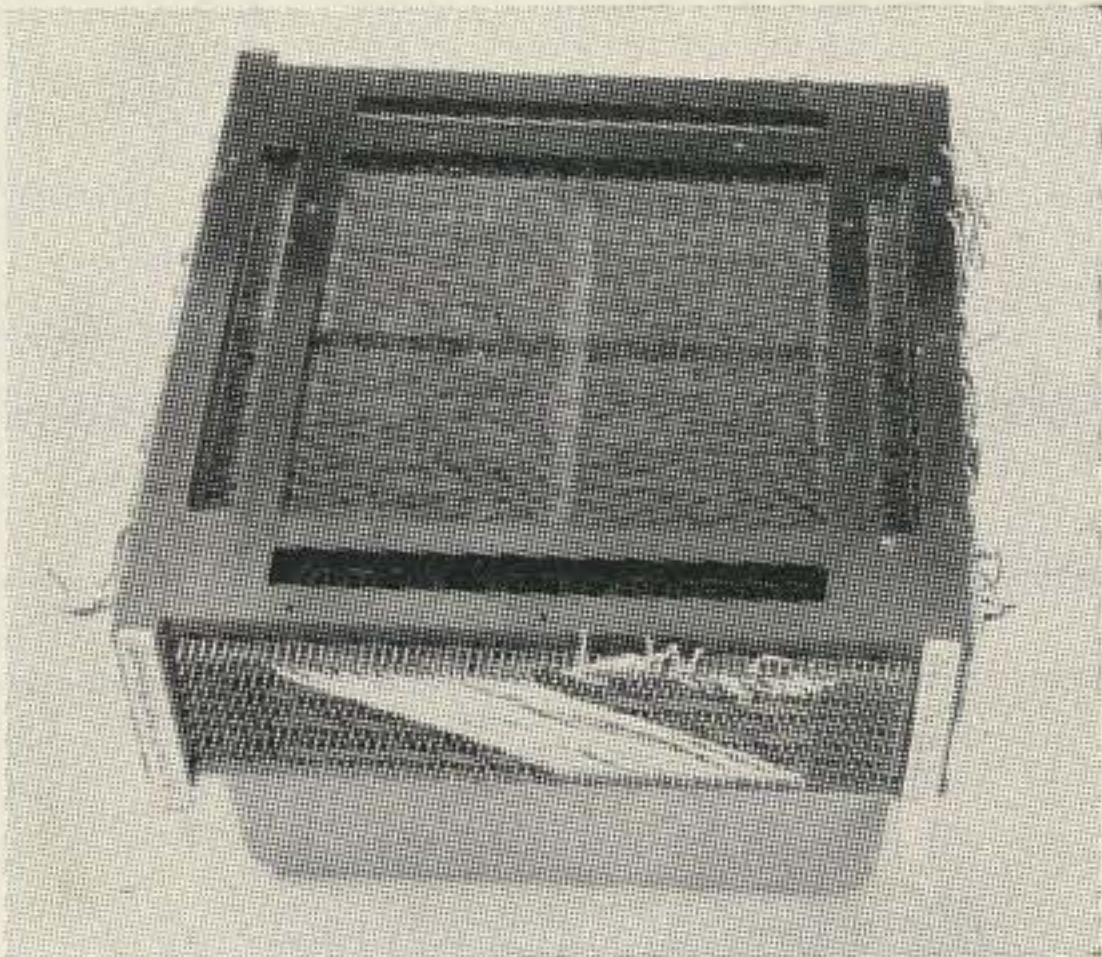
(credit to I.A.R.U. Region 1 Bulletin)

FROM IBM COMPUTORS



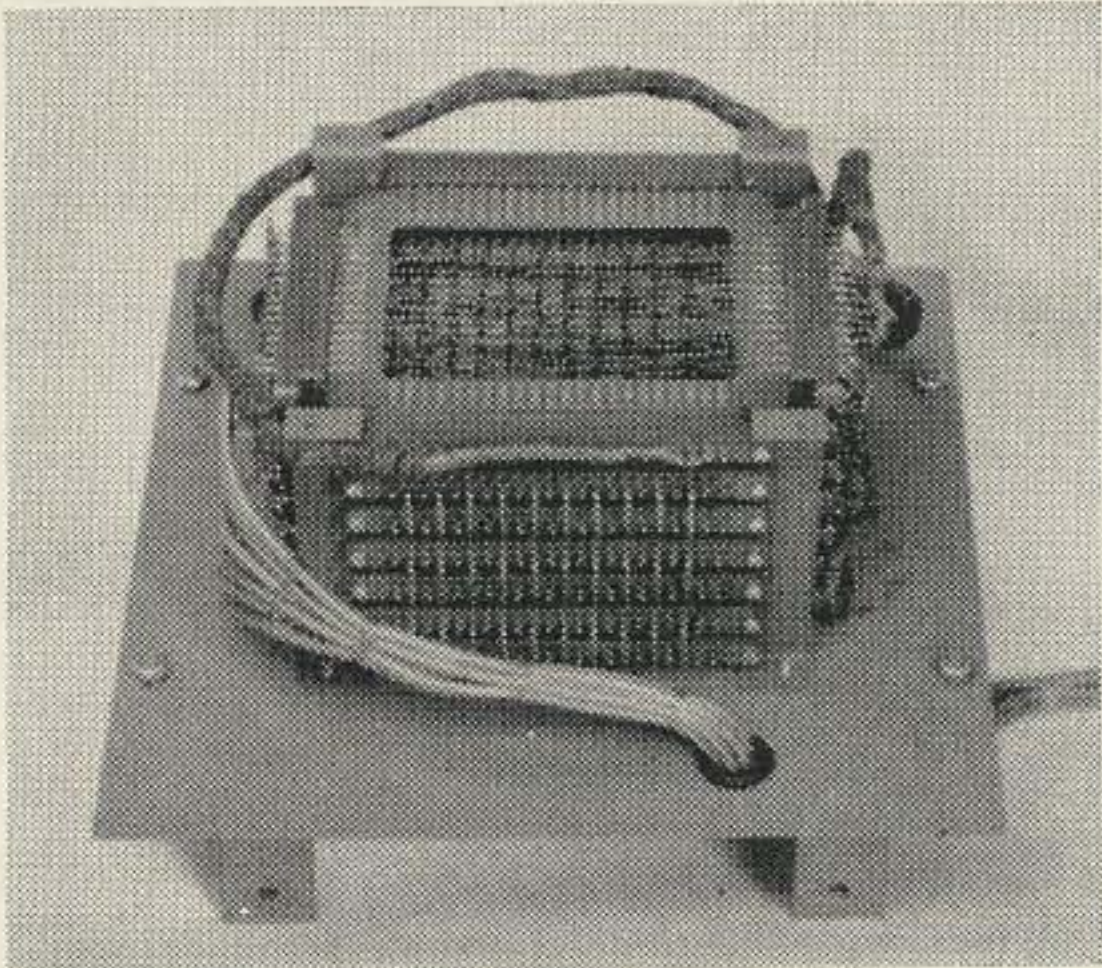
\$100.00

MEMORY DRUM, approx. 40 read-write heads, 115 volt 60 cycle motor.



\$100.00

MEMORY PLANE STACK, WIRED, 10,000 cores per frame, 8 frames per stack, with cooling fan.



\$25.00

MEMORY PLANE STACK, WIRED, 100 cores per frame, 7 frames per stack.

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19 ALLERTON ST. LYNN, MASS.