



73 Tests the Tunaverter

What's a Tunaverter? If you don't know, you haven't been paying attention to the ads in 73. It's a tunable transistorized converter made by Tompkins for just about any range you could want. Tunaversers are available for the 2-3 mc marine band, 160, 80, 75, 40, 20 and 15 m, and for 14-18 mc for short wave broadcasters (or VHF *if* use). The ham band ones are available with BFO's if desired. Another Tunaverter covers 37-50 mc for police and other utilities with 10, 6 and 2 m models coming up soon.

We received a model 800 Tunaverter for test. It covers 3.5-4.0 mc and has a built-in BFO. The circuit is quite simple. It's a one transistor autodyne converter with ganged tuning of the antenna and oscillator. The BFO is also tunable and uses another transistor.

Perhaps I've become a bit spoiled with all this complicated equipment around, but I really didn't expect much when I connected the Tunaverter to a little transistor radio using the recommended procedure (wrap a few turns of wire around the radio for coupling to the loopstick). After all, what can a one transistor converter do? I connected a short length of wire to the antenna jack—a terrible mismatch—and turned it on. The results were really quite amazing. The combination pulled in all sorts of 75 and 80 m stations and the planetary tuning was very smooth. Turning on the BFO partially blocked the transistor radio so that I had to turn up the volume, but even so, SSB and CW stations were very easy to tune

and were received strongly. I then pulled apart the transistor radio and shorted the AGC and the results were excellent. Terminals are provided for this in the Tunaverter. The Tunaverter is stable, too.

Of course, the Tunaverter is really made for automobile use and a typical car radio is far better than a 6 transistor \$6 portable. The Tunaverter has a special gimbel mount for installation in a car, and the circuit includes switching for connecting and disconnecting the converter from the car radio. It's made for 50 ohm input and has separate antenna connectors for the regular car radio and your ham antenna, but as you can tell from the above, worked well even with a short piece of wire or with a car antenna.

A feature of the 80 meter model without BFO (number 80) is that the *if* output is 550 kc so that it is perfect for novice CW use with a BC-453 Q-5'er. It would take a very good (and expensive) receiver to beat this combination for 80 meter Novice use.

The Tunaverter is 4½ x 3½ x 2¼" and has an attractive gray case with black knobs and lettering. The 9 volt battery fits inside and muting terminals are provided for use with a transmitter.

Tunaversers are \$19.95 up and there are so many models that you really should get a data sheet. The converters are well made and perform excellently. For more information, write Herbert Salch and Co., Woodsboro, Texas.

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