

The Galaxy RV-550

Remote VFO



If you are used to operating straight transceiver at the home station, you may have become accustomed to the idea that a remote VFO isn't really a must. After all, don't we always work each other on the same frequency? So for operating convenience, isn't transceive the best mode? OK, I figured, it must be nice to be able to work stations in the foreign phone bands, but that was a luxury for the rabid DX hunters. And I *had* made DXCC in the U.S. bands. Who needed split frequency operation?

Just one week of using the RV-550 sure changed my ideas. Now I'm convinced that my station would be only half equipped with the transceiver alone, even if I never worked another DX station.

The Galaxy RV-550 Remote VFO is the natural companion to the GT-550 Transceiver (see 73, page 48, May, 1969) with the same elegant styling. Incorporating the same, four transistor VFO circuit that is a standard-of-comparison in stability, the RV-550 also has the identical 500 khz tuning dial and large spinner knob found on the GT-550. The *only* other control is a four position FUNCTION switch. I emphasize the word *only* because, unlike some remote VFOs, there is no separate band-

switch control. Whatever band the GT-550 is switched to, so then is the RV-550. No chance of getting the VFO switched to a different band or having to fuss with several VFO segments within the same band. Simple, uncomplicated and a pleasure to use.

In practice the RV-550 adds three useful functions to its parent transceiver, without which it's hard to imagine how I got along. The FUNCTION switch gives you these four options at the flick of a wrist:

- 1) OFF - Just what it says. The RV-550 is inactive (indicated by the dial light being out) and the transceiver operated in its normal mode.
- 2) REC - Receiver tuning is controlled by the RV-550, while the GT-550 dial sets the transmit frequency.
- 3) XMIT-REC - The RV-550 controls both receive and transmit tuning in transceive mode, while the transceiver VFO is inactive.
- 4) XMIT - This is just the reverse of function (2). Transmit frequency is set by the RV-550, while receiver tuning is accomplished with the GT-550 dial.

Very sophisticated, you say, but what do I get out of these several functions?

Well, suppose you are working a net and want to move off the control frequency to pass traffic with another member. He asks, 'where do you want to QSY?' You flip the RV-550 to REC and tune it to find a vacant spot. Switch to OFF, 'OK Chuck, 7275 is clear, I'll call you.' Switch to XMIT-REC and you are transceive on the previously selected frequency to call him. And when you finish the traffic, switching the RV-550 to OFF puts you right back on

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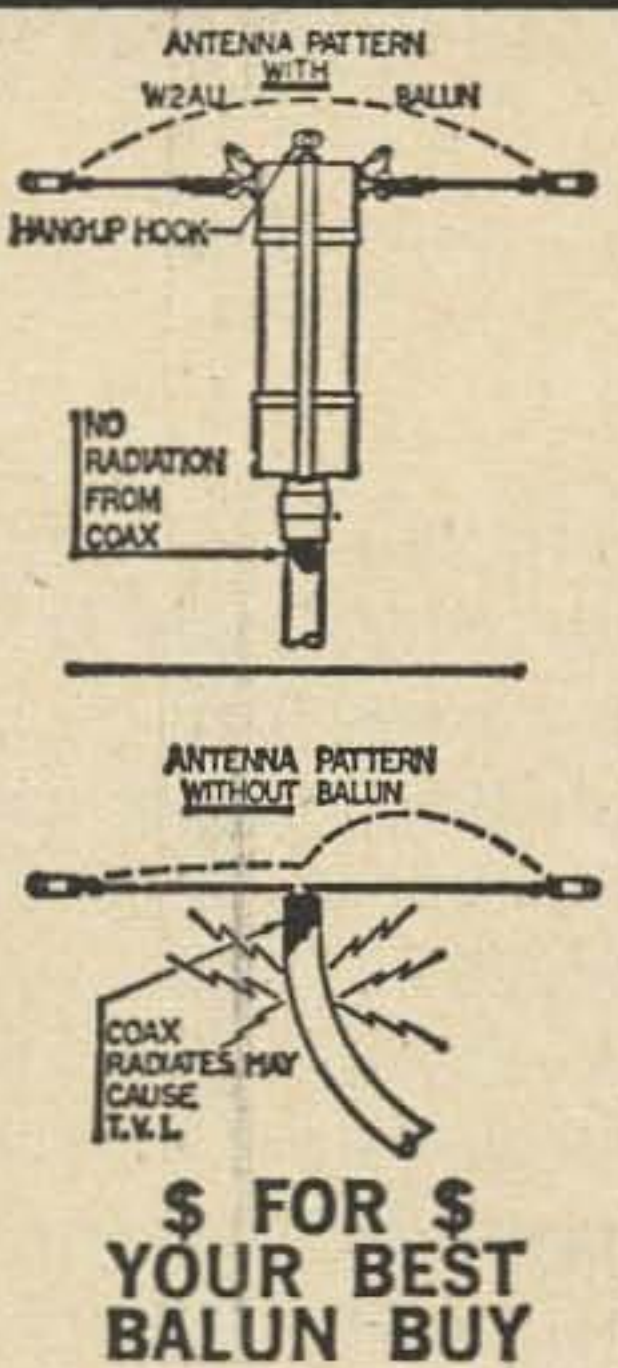
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the net frequency, set by the transceiver dial. For emergency work you can transceive on two net frequencies, switching between them as the situation requires without touching the tuning knobs. Great for inter-net liaison.

You are not a net man? Well, maybe you have worked one of those nomadic types, destined to wander away up frequency. Tracking him with the transceiver dial means that he won't find you where he left you, and his anguished cries will seemingly go unanswered. Or if he has one of those transceivers with a 1 khz difference between transmit and receive, you both 'bunny-hop' some 10 khz in the course of a few overs, tromping across other QSOs on the way, and leaving a lot of blistered feelings. In either case the REC function is good for holding on to the nomad, while maintaining your transmit frequency stable.

While waiting for that rare DX to wind up his contact with a long-winded W6, you can put the RV-550 on REC to scan for other hot ones, with the capability of going

on XMIT-REC to get a quick contact, then to OFF and the original frequency in time to catch the rare one as he gets his last of a string of 73s. Handy for contest flexibility.

If you're wondering what function 4 is good for! The VK9 you can copy loud and clear says you are clobbered and begs you QSY up ten, which he finds to be in the clear. A quick check on REC proves this spot is solid QRM at your end. No mind—tell him to stay put, switch to XMIT and tune the RV-550 to the frequency he can hear you.

Hooking up the RV-550 to the GT-550 requires all the time it takes to plug in the two cables supplied, between the units. The GT-550 furnishes the regulated 12VDC. Hardest part is getting the VFO out of its shipping container—those Galaxy packers must be trying to set standards for the I.C.C. when it comes to protecting their wares.

Oh! By the way, the RV-550 is also fine if you are a rabid DXer and want to work the fellows in the foreign phone bands.
... W6AJZ