



Ross and White RW-Band Tranceiver

The Ross and White RW-Bnd 2 meter FM transceiver is one of the newer entries to the FM market place, and it brings with it several unique features.

You can put it in your glove compartment, it is so small. The front panel mike socket lets its trim design slide into narrow places, like the empty hole in your dashboard where the AM radio used to be. If you prefer to keep it outside, you can mount it underneath the dash or on the transmission hump with the mounting bracket that is included. And this rig is portable too. You can use it with a shoulder strap and flashlight batteries. Its size is deceptive because it is loaded with features. Keep reading.

The little knob at the side is for the built-in tone burst encoder. More and more repeaters are requiring tones to activate the transmitters and other functions of the repeaters, such as low band links. In some areas that have several repeaters with the same input frequency, a different tone is required to turn on each particular machine. Other rigs require externally connected boxes that have the tone generators inside. The generator is already inside the RW-Bnd. These tones are easily reached for field adjustment and the three switchable positions should be sufficient even for the frequent traveler. Since the tone circuits use ICs, they are trouble free and should require no maintenance at all.

You will notice that there are four knobs on the front panel. There is a volume and a squelch control as with all others. To turn it on, you turn on the volume and adjust it for a comfortable noise level with the squelch open. Right? Wrong. Once you have adjusted these two controls you should not need to adjust them again because the main power switch is included in the power level switch. There are three power levels (plus 'off') that offer a variety of operating conditions. The low power slot is fine for talking to the mobile who is following you. No need to tie up a lot of other people on the direct channel. The medium power level is perfect for keeping in touch with the base when you head out for a loaf of bread. Incidentally, these two levels are satisfactory for portable operation using batteries or other situations where low current power supplies only are available, such as when you are on a business trip. The usefulness of this rig for emergencies is self-evident; low current drain, built in tone burst, and small size. If there is no emergency and you are just talking to the distant repeater several cities away, the high power position is the ideal level as this allows the rig to run ten-plus watts output to the antenna.

Do you have visions of plugging your rig in and pushing the mike button and watching the relative rf output meter quickly flash to maximum and then crashing to zero? This will not happen with the RW-Bnd because it has

a protection circuit that prevents the final transistor from blowing out if the swr is too high, such as when you forget to connect the antenna or a low tree branch takes it off.

The circuitry is modern and of advanced design. For example, the transmitter uses an IC oscillator. Most other rigs do not have an IC here. In the receiver, the sharp i-f does not block or get cross-talk from adjacent channels. Once inside the rig, you will notice that there is a lot of room. You will be grateful for this when you try to change

crystals for the transmitter or receiver because there is room to get a couple of fingers in there and you do not have to use a pair of pliers that might pinch the crystal. Each rock has a trimmer capacitor to let you get it exactly on frequency, transmit and receive. Twelve channels are sufficient for most areas and this is what you have in the RW-Bnd. In case one of your local repeaters has not switched to the standard 600 kHz spacing, crystal jumpering is easy.

Once the rig is installed, the clear, clean and plentiful audio will strike you. The front mounted speaker is what does it. The audio is not directed at your feet nor is it muffled in the maze of wires behind the dashboard. You will not need to hook up an external speaker to hear this one. Another useful feature is the accessory jack on the rear panel. It is connected to nothing. Your own needs and imagination are the determining factors here. Do you use a Touchtone pad? Tie it in here. Do you use a continuous tone squelch system (PL)? Attach it to this plug. Perhaps you want to run the audio output to another speaker in the rear of the car. It is easily done. You can even bring out test points for monitoring the functions of the rig.

One other valuable contribution the Ross and White people have given the ham for maximum enjoyment of his FM rig is a complete instruction manual. Book is a better word to use. It has pictorials, parts placement pictures, voltage tests, operating theory, and more. It is a valuable volume for the proud RW-Bnd owner.

For more information about this great rig, contact Ross and White at 50 West Dundee Road, Wheeling IL 60090. . . .Staff

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