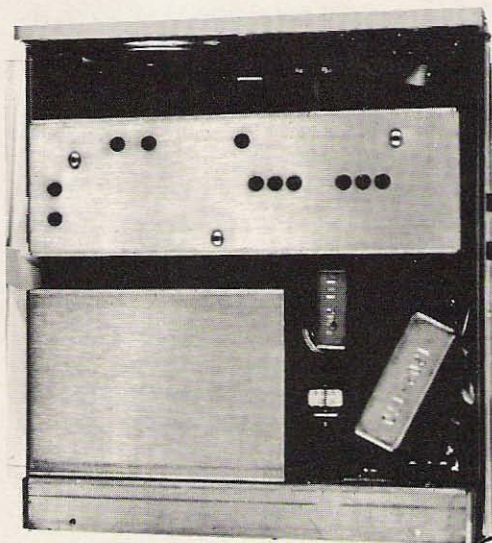


73 Tests

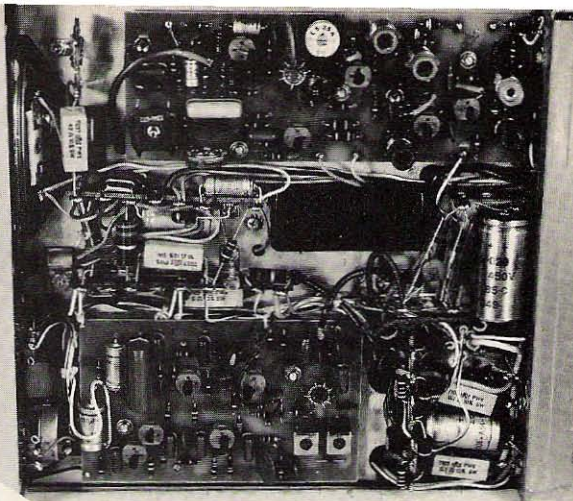


Though relatively new on the ham market, the Pearce-Simpson Gladding 25 transceiver is showing up on the air very rapidly.

The big difference between it and the other units is that "25" in the name, which means 25 watts output. Power has come to two meter FM. Surprisingly this power is available at a price that is remarkably competitive. The Gladding 25 sells for \$249.95 in the 12-volt model and for \$299.95 with a matching ac power supply.

The two meter model is almost identical with the famous Gladding marine transceivers, which are about the best selling in the world. This volume of business undoubtedly helps them to keep their price a lot lower than it might be if they were making units for amateur radio alone.

Those of you who have read the ads for



the GLADDING 25 FM TRANSCEIVER

solid state amplifiers recognize why most FM transmitters are limited to around ten watts. Transistors are available for up to 100 watts or more, but the price is a bit out of the average amateur pocketbook range, running up to over \$200! Gladding pulled a fast one with their rig by using tubes in the driver and final. Tubes may be old fashioned in some circuits, but for power amplification they are still the least expensive route.

The Gladding, like the Drake, Tempo, Telecomm, Sonar and Swan units, uses 12 MHz crystals for the transmitter. The receiver uses 78 MHz crystals, which is a departure . . . this being the only amateur FM rig we know that uses these. The transmitter crystals have air padding capacitors for zeroing in the channel. There are six separate channels.

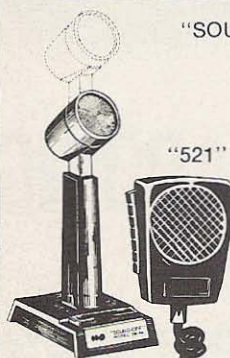
The transmitter has a power level switch

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which helps conserve your car battery when the 25 watts isn't really needed. The output is one watt in the low power position. There is a "monitor" position on the power switch which turns off the amplifier filaments and thus conserves battery power, if this is important.

The Gladding is surprisingly well made, particularly when you consider that price. The circuits are on boards, IC's are used, and there is a lot more shielding than you will see in most other rigs. The crystal compartment has its own shield, as does the receiver rf and i-f section and the final amplifier. The final is shielded both below and above the chassis!

The receiver is considerably better than some we've tested, probably due to the eight pole crystal filter in the 10.7 MHz i-f. We have an enormously loud repeater about 70 miles from here which runs about 15 hours a day average on 146.91. Many receivers are just about useless when this is on if we want to listen on 88 or 94, both among the most used channels in our area. If you have 60 kHz spacing to your nearest repeaters you probably won't have interference and a sharp i-f won't make that much difference, but if you've got a signal of substance just 30 kHz off channel, this may be an important factor to keep in mind. The advertised selectivity of the unit is 60 dB down at 15 kHz.

The receiver and transmitter crystals switch independently, so you can use the 34/94 pair or, if you happen to live in a run-down part of town where an old repeater is still grinding out 34/76, you are still set. By adding a 16 transmit crystal you will be on 16/76 for modernized repeaters. If you are uptight about your 34/76 repeater please try and ignore the sarcasm . . . but do let the idea of shifting to 16/76 perk somewhere in the back of your mind, even if it is way, way back.

All in all, we liked the Gladding 25 and think it is a remarkable buy. . . Staff

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