

73 Tests The REGENCY Transcan FM Transceiver

A scanning transceiver was the obvious next step in two meter FM transceivers. There are so many repeaters in action today, even in the more remote parts of the country, that the FMer needs some way of keeping track of which are being used. Back in the old days, a year ago, when there was only one repeater in most areas, a simple monitor receiver was all that was needed to keep in contact.

As 1972 unfolds we find that most major urban areas have four to six repeater channels perking and, unless the FMer has his hand on the channel switch a whole lot, he misses out on most of what is happening. It gets to be quite a drag to reach up and switch through all the channels every few minutes. It is a lot better to have a couple of ICs and some transistors doing that for you, automatically.

Regency has married their scanning VHF receiver and their very popular HR-2 two meter FM transceiver and come up with a package which does everything for you except keep the log. The receiver scans eight crystal controlled channels and, when any one becomes active the light turns on, the scanning stops and the squelch turns off so you can hear the station. Each of the eight receive channels may be locked out of the scanning function by pushing a button over the channel lamp. This is handy when one channel is active and you want to scan all but that one . . . or two, etc.

There are six crystal transmit channels which are selected by the buttons under the receive channel lamps, which leaves two receive channels which can share any of the six transmit channels with another receive channel. Pushing the transmit button locks the receiver to that channel until you push the "scan" button which disconnects all transmit crystals and sets the receiver to scanning again.

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This setup is ideal in the areas I frequent, fitting the six repeaters we use in New Hampshire and southern Vermont. When I head down Boston way I change the crystals for the six active repeaters down there (W1QFD, W1KGS, W1MHN, W1NJR, W1HWK, and W1KGO). If I'm driving to New York, which happens often, I load up for W1KGO, W1KGR, W1KGD, W1KGG, W1KHK, and W12SUR. And so it goes, with my being able to talk through a selection of repeaters no matter where I am.

The Transcan is extremely handy at 73 HQ where I monitor not only the six fairly local repeaters, but also listen for calls on 76 and 94 simplex from passing FMers. We have a pot of coffee at the ready for visiting amateurs and do appreciate the company. The Transcan has also alerted me to several band openings which have permitted me to talk down into New York and even points further away.

The scanning function is accomplished by a couple of ICs which switch the receive channels by means of diodes and sample the channels, stopping when the squelch is operated by a carrier. There is automatic protection of that expensive output transistor too, with a little circuit that senses if the antenna opens or is shorted and turns off the drive to the final.

All in all, Regency has come up with one of the best fun-makers for two meter FM yet. I don't have time to switch through all the channels while I'm driving to see who might be coming through. The Transcan does it for me and even the shortest blip of a carrier stops everything and lights up the active channel. The price is \$319 for the mobile model and \$349 for the desk model with built-in 117V ac power supply.

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