70 The ‘Yearling’ 20 m receiver

Introduction

Published to celebrate the first anniversary of *D-i-Y Radio*, this excellent receiver design forms a suitable ‘second receiver project’ for those who have successfully completed the MW receivers earlier in this series. The receiver is powered from a PP3 battery or from a mains adaptor, and can be built with the help of an experienced constructor, on a prototype board. The circuit diagram and some of the components used are shown in the separate diagram. Headphones or a loudspeaker can be used and, once the radio is completed, a few simple adjustments will make the *Yearling* spring to life!

Building the receiver

Before starting the constructional process, start by identifying all the parts. One by one, tick them off against the parts list. Are their values correct? The varactor diode is a twin type (see circuit diagram overleaf), and must be cut *carefully* down the middle, producing two devices, D1 and D2, with two wires each.

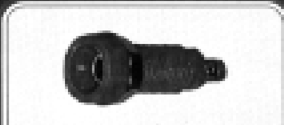
First, solder the IC sockets, followed by the coils (inductors); L1 is pink inside the top, and L2 is yellow inside. Then, solder in the varactors; the lettering on D1 should be next to coil L1, and the lettering on D2 should face resistor R7. After those, the capacitors, wire links and resistors should be soldered to the board. Take care to wire the voltage regulator, IC3, correctly. Solder in the crystal X1 as quickly and deftly as you can – crystals do *not* take kindly to having their leads bent and being fried with a soldering iron! Make sure that the electrolytic capacitors C2, C12, C15 and C16 are fitted the right way round. Most electrolytic capacitors have only the negative lead marked.

Figure 1 shows the rear of the front panel, illustrating the connections from the board and antenna socket to the controls. All normal connecting wires are 22 SWG or thereabouts, with insulation. Their lengths should be about 15 cm, except for the battery lead to the switch, which is about 8 cm. It is recommended that you use different-coloured wire for each connection to a control. **Figure 2** shows this. The variable resistor section of VR5, the AF gain control, uses single screened cable connected to 0 V (ground) at the

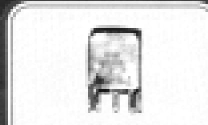
Amateur Radio

D-i-Y

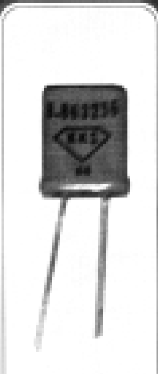
Year



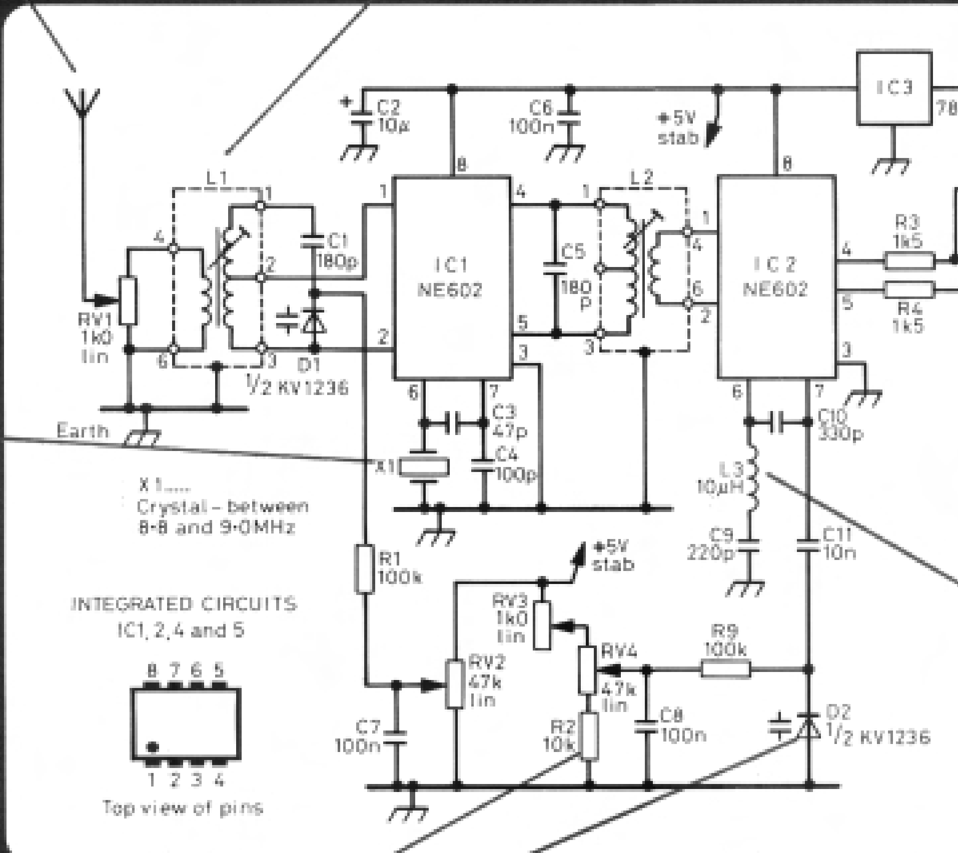
Antenna Socket



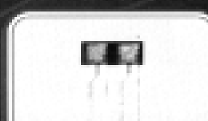
Variable Inductor



Crystal



Resistor



Varicap Diode

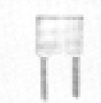
Most radio amateurs enjoy building par
is Do-it-Yourself (D-i-Y) Radio, and it is
successfully built yourself. License
allowed (by the Government) to use ho
can see how radio components are dra
circuit diagram for the

D-i-Y Radio, RSGB, Lambda House, Cr

– Do It Yourself

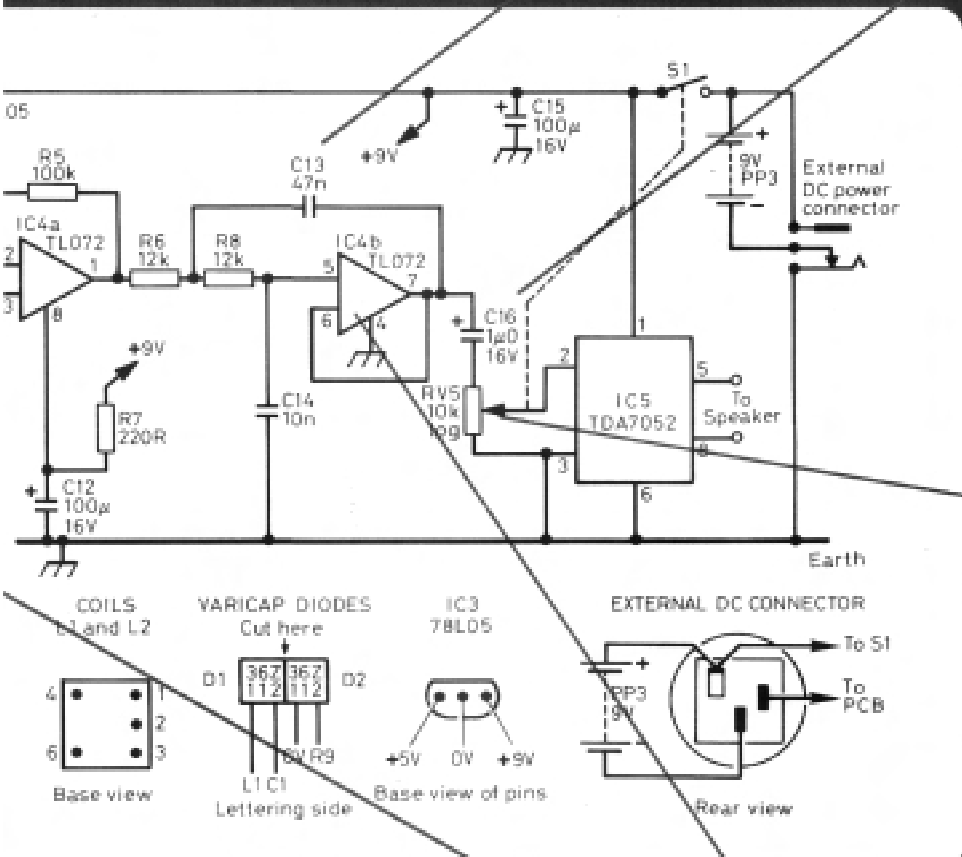
RADIO

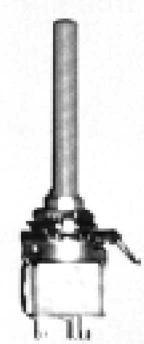
ling



Polyester Capacitor

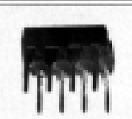
Electrolytic Capacitor





AF Gain Control

Fixed Inductor



Integrated Circuit

t of their radio stations themselves, this very satisfying to use a radio you have d radio amateurs are the only people me-built transmitters. On this page you wn on a circuit diagram. This is the full *D-i-Y Radio* Yearling.

nborne Road, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 3JE

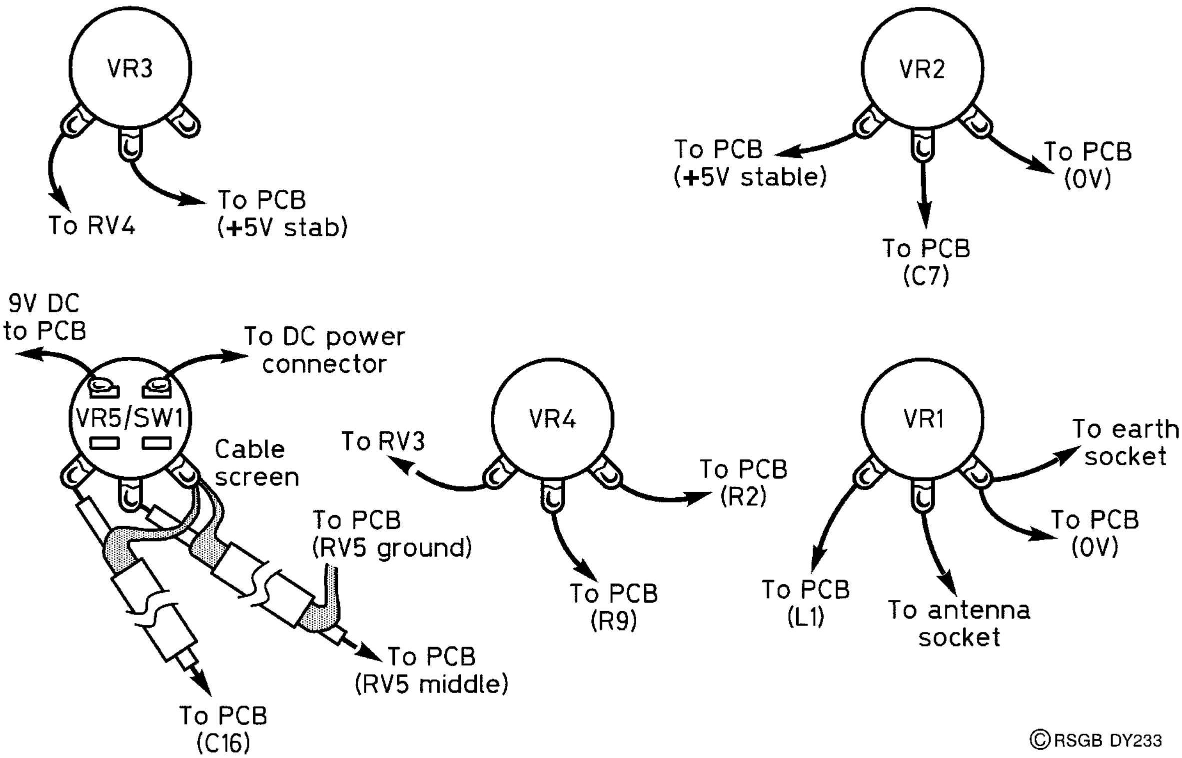


Figure 1 Rear view of the variable resistors. Check the connections carefully to make sure the wires fit the correct holes

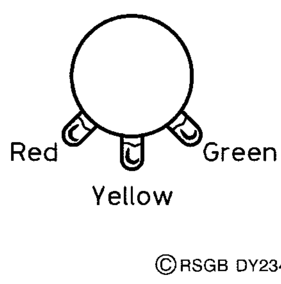


Figure 2 It is helpful to use different colour insulated connecting wires. Wires between each variable resistor and the board should be twisted together to give a neat wiring outfit.

board end. Now fit the ICs into their sockets. Make sure that they are the right way round (see circuit diagram) and that each pin lies directly above its corresponding socket before applying *gentle* pressure with the back of the board firmly supported.

Check that all the connections are correct (don't *assume* this – check the ends of each wire against the circuit diagram) and that all your soldered joints are shiny. Lastly, drill the five 10.5 mm diameter holes for the main controls. On the side of the case, a 6.3 mm diameter hole is needed for the speaker socket, and 8 mm holes for the antenna and earth sockets. The external power socket requires an 11 mm diameter hole.

Adjusting it

Before you can make adjustments, and in order to hear *anything* on your *Yearling*, you will need to connect an antenna (aerial) to the antenna socket. About 8 metres of wire, preferably outdoors and as high as possible, is all you need to connect to the socket. Connect the 3.5 mm jack socket for the speaker, and a 3.5 mm jack to your speaker leads. Connect a battery and switch on.

1. Using a very small screwdriver or, better still, a non-metallic 'trimming tool', *gently* screw in the core of L2 as far as it will go, but *don't force it*. Then unscrew it by three turns anticlockwise.
2. Set VR1, VR2 and VR4 to mid-position and rotate the core of L1 anticlockwise until the hissing noise you hear reaches a maximum intensity. Then adjust L2 for maximum noise.
3. If you now tune carefully with the main tuning control, VR4, you should hear some amateur Single-Sideband (SSB) speech signals. You may have to adjust the bandspread (fine tuning) control, VR3, to make the speech sound normal.
4. Having verified that everything is working, switch off and mount the controls on the front panel and the sockets on the side. To do this, it is much safer to disconnect all the controls and sockets, mount them in their final positions, and then wire them up again.
5. Fit the front panel knobs, connect your aerial and switch on again, checking that everything is working. Then, locate the cluster of CW (Morse) signals to be found at the bottom of the 20 metre band, set the bandspread control to mid-position and slacken off the main tuning knob. Turn the knob (but *not* the control!) until the pointer lies a little clockwise of 14.0 MHz. The SSB signals should now lie roughly between the dial centre and 14.35 MHz. Tighten up the knob.
6. Finally, fix the board to the rear panel, and secure the battery (if you are using one). Attach the rear panel to the back of the box, and you are finished!

Listening!

Make a habit of keeping the bandspread control in its centre position when searching for stations; then you can adjust it either way to make the signals readable. Unless you have a very big aerial, it is best to have the 'RF Gain' control, VR1, at maximum. Use the 'Antenna Tune' control, VR2, to give the best signal, and control the volume with the 'OFF/AF Gain' control. You will find some excellent DX stations with your *Yearling* receiver, and it will serve you well.

Parts list

Resistors (all 0.25 W, 5%)

R1, R5, R9	100 kilohms (kΩ)
R2	10 kilohms (kΩ)
R3, R4	1.5 kilohms (kΩ)
R6, R8	12 kilohms (kΩ)
R7	200 ohms (Ω)

Capacitors (all rated at 16 V or more, tolerance *at least* what is quoted)

C1, C5	180 picofarads (pF) polystyrene 5%
C2	10 microfarads (μF) electrolytic
C3	47 picofarads (pF) polystyrene 5%
C4	100 picofarads (pF) polystyrene 5%
C6, C7, C8	100 nanofarads (nF) or 0.1 microfarad (μF) ceramic
C9	220 picofarads (pF) polystyrene 2%
C10	330 picofarads (pF) polystyrene 2%
C11, C14	10 nanofarads (nF) or 0.01 microfarad (μF) ceramic
C12, C15	100 microfarads (μF) electrolytic
C13	47 nanofarads (nF) or 0.047 microfarad (μF) polyester, 5%
C16	1 microfarad (μF) electrolytic

Variable resistors

VR1, VR3	1 kilohm (kΩ) linear
VR2, VR4	47 kilohms (kΩ) linear
VR5	10 kilohms (kΩ) log with switch

Inductors

L1	Toko KANK3335R
L2	Toko KANK3334R
L3	10 microhenries (μH), 5%

Semiconductors

IC1, IC2	Philips/Signetics NE602 or NE602A
IC3	78L05 5 V 100 mA regulator
IC4	TL072 Dual Op-Amp
IC5	Philips TDA7052 audio amplifier

Additional items

D1, D2	Varactor diode Toko KV1236 (cut into two sections – see text)
X1	Crystal 8.86 MHz type (from Maplin, etc.)
4 off	8-pin DIL sockets for IC1, IC2, IC4 and IC5
2 off	4 mm sockets aerial (red) and earth (black)
1 off	3.5 mm chassis-mounting speaker jack socket
1 off	DC power socket for external supply (if required)
4 off	Red knobs with pointers
1 off	Tuning knob with pointer (e.g. 37 mm PK3 type)
1 off	Printed-circuit board or prototype board
1 off	Plastic case approx 170 × 110 × 6 mm (e.g. Tandy number 270-224)
1 off	Speaker 8–32 Ω impedance (or headphones)

71 Adding the 80 metre band to the Yearling receiver

Background

You will have noticed that your *Yearling* receiver has a dial which shows coverage of the 80-metre amateur band (3.5–3.8 MHz). This band is used for local contacts during the day, and contacts up to about 1600 miles in darkness. Longer distances are possible, particularly in the middle of winter.

The modifications

Only a few extra parts are required, as you may have noticed from the parts list. A low-pass filter, FL1 (one which passes low frequencies and rejects higher frequencies), is switched into the circuit on 80 m. The circuit of the

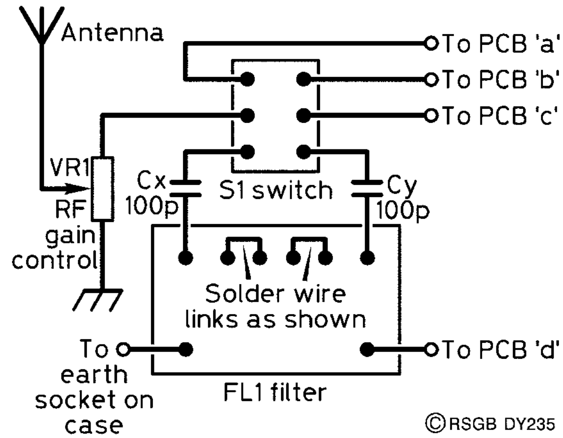


Figure 1 The circuit diagram shows the extra components for 80 m operation. Note the connections to the PCB 'a', 'b', 'c' and 'd'

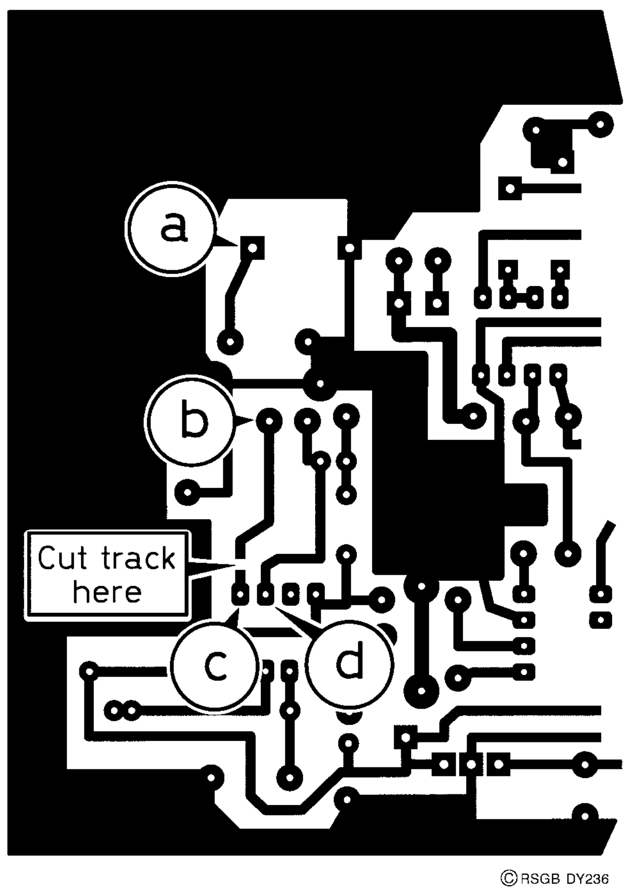


Figure 2 The underside of the PCB. Wires are connected from the switch and filter as shown

switch and its connections is shown in **Figure 1**. Before making the modifications, dismantle the receiver so that you have easy (and safe) access to the case and the track side of the PCB.

1. The first thing to do is to drill a 6.5 mm diameter hole in the side of the case into which the switch fits.
2. Then, using a sharp Stanley knife or scalpel, carefully cut the track on the PCB as shown in **Figure 2**, making a gap about 1 mm wide.
3. Using 10 cm lengths of different-coloured insulated wire, make the four connections, a, b, c and d, to the PCB, as shown in Figure 2.
4. Solder the two links on the filter, and then make the connections to the switch, capacitors and PCB. You will have to disconnect the existing wire between the RF gain control, VR1, and pin 4 of L1 on the PCB.
5. Lastly, check your new connections carefully, then mount the switch in the new hole and fix the filter to the bottom of the case with a little glue, as shown in **Figure 3**. Reassemble the circuit, and replace the back of the case.

More testing!

Firstly, switch your new switch, S1, into the 20 m position, to check that the original circuit still works! If you find that the 'Antenna Tune' control peaks at a slightly different position, don't worry.

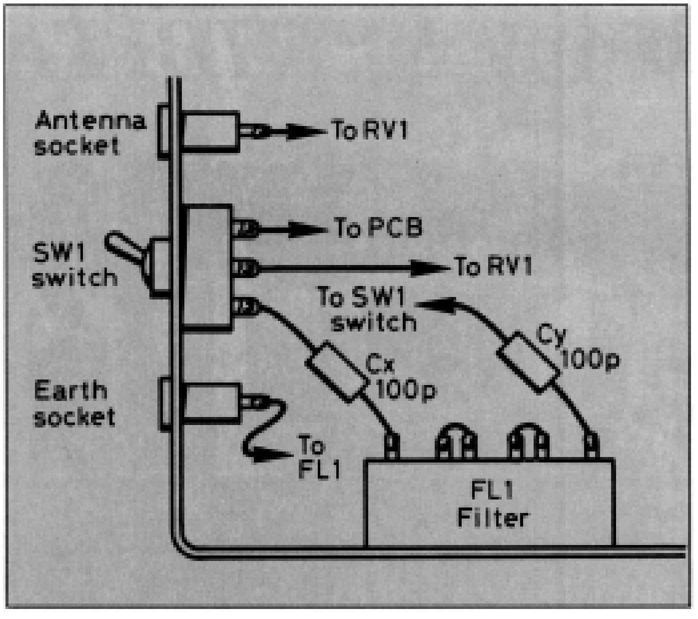


Figure 3 Internal view of the Yearling case. The filter FL1 is attached to the base with glue

Now switch to 80 m, and tune around the anticlockwise end of the dial; you should hear some SSB stations, particularly in the evenings and at weekends, when may people are on the air. At the other end of the travel of the tuning control, you should hear CW (Morse) stations.

The Radio Society of Great Britain broadcasts amateur radio news every Sunday morning on or about 3.65 MHz; the table below has the details. Finally, a good antenna is more important than ever for 80 metre reception – aim for more height and length, and then consider the project concerned with making an Antenna Tuning Unit (ATU)!

Parts list

Capacitors (all rated at 16 V or more, tolerance 10% or better)

Cx, Cy	100 picofarads (pF) polystyrene

Filter

FL1	Toko 237LVS1110 low-pass filter

Additional items

SW1	2-pole 2-way (changeover) toggle switch
7 off	Short lengths of insulated wire of different colours

The RSGB news broadcasts, GB2RS – Sunday mornings

Frequency (MHz)	*Local time*	*Reception area*
3.650	0900	SE England
3.650	0930	Midlands
3.650	1000	SW England
3.650	1100	Yorkshire
3.640	1130	Aberdeen
3.660	1130	Glasgow

The Midlands transmission is repeated at 1800 (6pm) local time on 3.650 MHz. All frequencies are approximate in order to avoid interference, and use lower sideband (LSB). If you also have a 40 metre receiver, there are GB2RS news broadcasts on 7.048 MHz at 0900 local time from Northern Ireland and from 1100 local time from the north midlands.

72 How the Yearling works

Introduction

The *Yearling* was designed to provide an introduction to *Amateur Radio* on the 20 m amateur band. Let's look at how the different sections (or 'stages') of a radio work, and how they fit together to form a complete receiver. **Figure 1** shows a block diagram which you can follow and compare with the circuit diagram of your *Yearling* receiver.

The antenna (or aerial)

Connected to your receiver, it will pick up not only amateur signals, but all other signals as well! This means that the receiver has to select the one signal that interests you, while rejecting all the others. The following stages do just that.

The RF filter

This stage (centred around L1) selects the band of radio frequencies (RF) containing the signal you want, in this case, those having wavelengths around 20 m. Signals from the 40 m band, for example, would not get through.

The crystal oscillator

This is an oscillator circuit designed around a quartz crystal (X1), and has a very stable frequency. It produces a single, very pure frequency to feed into the mixer. A crystal having a frequency between 8.800 MHz and 9.000 MHz is suitable for this circuit. The oscillator and mixer functions are both carried out inside IC1.

The first mixer

Yes, this stage 'mixes' two signals together. In this case, the two signals are (i) from the aerial via the RF Filter, and (ii) from the crystal oscillator. Two

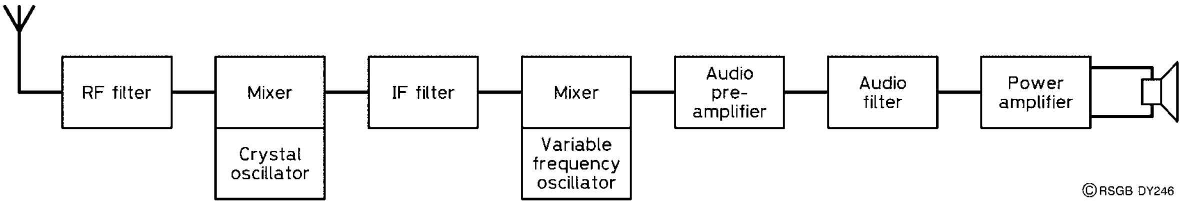


Figure 1 Block diagram of the Yearling, showing how the various stages fit together to make a complete radio receiver

bands of signals emerge from the mixer. The first is centred upon a frequency equal to the incoming signal frequency **added** to the crystal frequency, and the second is centred upon a frequency equal to the incoming signal frequency **subtracted** from the crystal frequency. Look at an example – if the signal is at 14 MHz and the oscillator at 9 MHz, then the mixer outputs will be 14 + 9 = 23 MHz and 14 – 9 = 5 MHz.

Intermediate frequency (IF) filter

It is the purpose of the IF filter (centred around L2) to select only one of these two bands of frequencies emerging from the mixer. In this case, it is the lower band of frequencies (around 5 MHz) which we select. This is because, in general, lower frequencies are easier to handle than higher ones.

Variable-frequency oscillator (VFO)

The VFO (part of IC2) enables us to tune into a particular station, and operates over a band of frequencies between 5 MHz and 5.35 MHz in this receiver. You will notice that IC1 and IC2 are the same type of chip, so that you will be expecting another mixer stage to be associated with the VFO. You are quite right!

The second mixer

This mixer obeys exactly the same rules as those of mixer 1. Sum and difference frequencies are produced, like this. Mixing is between the incoming IF signals (around 5 MHz) and the VFO signals (around 5 MHz), producing output frequency bands centred upon 10 MHz and 0 MHz. The use of the words 'band of frequencies' throughout this explanation is intentional. If all the signals were pure, there would be no bands; the bands are produced because of one thing – the modulation imposed on the pure frequencies at the transmitter. So, the ‘bands’ contain the one thing that we want to extract from the signal, and that is the speech or Morse code that the signal contains. The band of frequencies at 0 MHz is just that – the audio frequencies we want in the loudspeaker. Because of this, the audio frequency output of the second mixer is selected and passed on for amplification.

The audio preamplifier

Preliminary amplification of the minute audio signal which emerges from the second mixer is provided by IC4a, which will respond only to audio signals, automatically rejecting the 10 MHz signal.

The audio filter

The bandwidth of normal speech when transmitted by an amateur station is around 3 kHz, so there is no advantage to be gained in amplifying frequencies greater than this. IC4b is known as a low-pass filter, because it passes (lets through) lower frequencies and rejects higher ones.

The power amplifier

IC5 produces the final audio amplification and provides enough power (about 350 milliwatts (mW) to drive a small speaker.

How does it work on 80 m?

If you have fitted the 80 m modification to your receiver, you are probably wondering how the circuit works at this different frequency. Firstly, the filter which you fitted selects the 80 m band instead of the 20 m band. The only other slight difference lies in the way the first mixer stage works. Its job is to produce sum and difference frequencies from the incoming signal and crystal frequencies. On 20 m, it did this by subtracting the crystal frequency (9 MHz) from the incoming frequency (14 MHz) to produce an IF output of 5 MHz. On 80 m, the incoming frequency (3.5 MHz) is subtracted from the crystal frequency (9 MHz) to produce an IF output of 5.5 MHz, which is still within the tuning range of the VFO in the next stage.