

TV-TRANSMITTING LEGALITIES

The article "Build This Amateur TV Transmitter" (**Radio-Electronics**, June and July 1989), was fine technically—but I must point out a few things about it.

The title should really tell the tale: The *only* valid use of the device is by a licensed Radio Amateur (ham) of Technician Class or higher. The article does say that is the case with the 2-watt version. However, it seems to suggest that if a person has such a license he

would be allowed to use the device for the purposes named both in the first paragraph of the article and/or those listed in the "Liability" paragraph on page 46 of the June issue. Part 97 of the FCC rules governing amateur radio specifically limit the nature of transmissions to non-commercial—in other words, not for profit or consideration of *any* kind.

In the article's first paragraph, seven possible uses are listed. The first, amateur TV transmitting, is

legitimate. The second, video installations where cable hookups are not possible, is only OK for non-commercial purposes by a licensed ham. Number three, security and industrial work, is definitely not allowed. The regulations regarding the fourth use, simultaneous viewing of several remote TV receivers, are vague, but the ham-only rules apply, as they do for number five, remote sensing. The low-power version of the device might be useful as a modulator for a home-type MATV system for the sixth use, cable transmission—but one must be careful not to radiate any signal. The seventh suggested use, as a wireless VCR link, is another that's absolutely not allowed.

As for the uses listed in the "Liability" paragraph: The ham-only rule applies to educational purposes; for legitimate TV broadcasting, even low-powered TV stations have a minimum power output, and it's not 2 watts; and industrial and scientific purposes are forbidden. Amateur TV trans-

mitting is perfectly all right (for licensed hams, of course).

The article mentions the authors' February 1986 article about a wireless TV link. As I recall, one of the following issues contained a letter from the FCC reminding **Radio-Electronics** and your readers that this type of device is *not* allowed under FCC rules. That is still the case. Although Part 15 has recently undergone some changes, it specifically precludes the wireless VCR link use.

I must object to the Parts List for offering kits with crystals in the 430-MHz ham band while not making it clear that not just anyone can operate those for any purpose. Do you know if the supplier checks to see if those who order the kit are licensed radio amateurs? Many commercial radio dealers that sell amateur-radio equipment insist that purchasers be licensed. Crystals for operation on TV channels 14 and 15 are also offered—that is a definite no-no.

I am a long-time subscriber to **Radio-Electronics** and I really enjoy

the articles. I believe that the TV-transmitter article could encourage many technically oriented readers to study and obtain their Amateur Radio Licenses. It should have been presented in that light. JOHN ANTONUK, AL7ID
Rhineland, WI

LESSONS LEARNED

I built the "Active Antenna" (**Radio-Electronics**, February 1989). It didn't work, so I sent it back to the author, Rodney Kreuter. He fixed it for *no charge*! I was very happy and surprised. He found that there were two poorly soldered joints, the FET was in wrong, and the battery was intermittent.

FRED B. KOLCHIN
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We're happy that Mr. Kreuter was able to help you. He certainly went beyond the call of duty. We hope you've learned something from the experience—not only about Rod Kreuter, but about proper soldering and construction techniques.—Editor

R-E