Bulletin 2

FM1200-SB0 VHF with Type-1 Control Board

1. The Flash module containing universal and auto-configuring software for all versions of FM1200 control boards (types 1, 2, 3, 4) is now shipping. The current version of the software in the Flash module is marked by a few minor differences with respect to an earlier version, which was originally written for control board Type-2 only.
The following features are new or different:

a. Automatic detection of control board version (1, 2, 3 or 4). Version number and EEPROM size is shown in the STATUS menu (FNC-5). Automatic adaptation of the software to hardware configuration of control board detected.

b. Improved TX power control routines.

c. Because of an insurmountable hardware difference compared with the 'standard' Type-2 control board, it is not possible to read and display transmitter power on control board version **4**. However, the TX PA over-temperature protection is active at all times on all versions.

d. Different frequencies may be selected for CTCSS TX and RX.

2. The two small daughterboards you may find inside your FM1200 SB0 transceiver may be removed. One daughterboard is fitted on top of the control board, the other is found at the analogue side, under the metal screening plate. The first daughterboard once served as a POCSAG interface together with a dongle (podule) inserted into the second socket on the transceiver front panel. The function of the other daughterboard is unknown.

3. A number of users has reported problems localizing the three resistors that need to be removed from control board Type 1, the reason being that the component overlay supplied was for Type 2, and minor differences exist in the exact component placement. Recently I obtained the component overlay of the Type-1 board. The marked up drawing is included in the Conversion Kit.

4. The service documentation of the VOX unit has been unearthed and is now available to interested users. The VOX only appears to generate a fair amount of echo. However, the effect only occurs at very short distances if the VOX microphone picks up a small portion of the transmitted signal from a monitoring receiver. The effect is not noticed if the VOX microphone is no longer within hearing distance of the receiver.

5. In some displays the LCD backlight lamp is defective. The official specification of the lamp is: 8.5 volts, 40 mA.

6. An earlier version of Bulletin 1 contains a mistake. A wire has to be connected between pin 17 of the main CPU (IC312) and pin 14 of the tone CPU (IC548).

7. The first time the radio is switched, it may take longer than usual before the user software actually starts. This is because the EEPROM has to be filled once with a large number of default values. During this process, which may take 3-5 seconds, the radio is in an undefined state and the 3 lights on the display are on.

8. The first time the radio is switched on, the display will indicate 435.000.000. To change to VHF readout, select the MENU (FNC-4), go to 'User', then 'Band'. Select option '2m'.