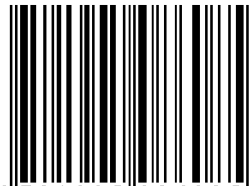


Radio Communication Handbook

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Contents

Acknowledgementsiii
Prefacevii
Chapter 1: Principles1.1
Chapter 2: Passive components2.1
Chapter 3: Semiconductors and valves3.1
Chapter 4: Building blocks 1: Oscillators4.1
Chapter 5: Building blocks 2: Amplifiers, mixers etc5.1
Chapter 6: HF receivers6.1
Chapter 7: HF transmitters and transceivers7.1
Chapter 8: PIC-A-STAR: A software transmitter and receiver8.1
Chapter 9: VHF/UHF receivers, transmitters and transceivers9.1
Chapter 10: LF: The 136kHz band10.1
Chapter 11: Practical microwave receivers and transmitters11.1
Chapter 12: Propagation12.1
Chapter 13: Antenna basics and construction13.1
Chapter 14: Transmission lines14.1
Chapter 15: Practical HF antennas15.1
Chapter 16: Practical VHF/UHF antennas16.1
Chapter 17: Practical microwave antennas17.1
Chapter 18: Morse code18.1
Chapter 19: Data communications19.1
Chapter 20: Imaging techniques20.1
Chapter 21: Satellites and space21.1
Chapter 22: Computers in the shack22.1
Chapter 23: Electromagnetic compatibility23.1
Chapter 24: Power supplies24.1
Chapter 25: Measurement and test equipment25.1
Chapter 26: Construction and workshop practice26.1
Appendix A: General dataA.1
Appendix B: Printed circuit board artworkB.1
Indexix

Note: Many chapters have references to the *RSGB Bulletin*, *Radio Communication* or *RadCom*. These are historic names of the RSGB members' monthly journal. The magazines are available on a series of CD-ROMs from: RSGB, Lambda House, Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 3JE (www.rsgb.org)

Preface

This, 8th, edition of the *Radio Communication Handbook* has been extensively revised and updated. Some chapters continue to incorporate the tried and tested designs from previous editions, others have been completely re-written, whilst the rest are a combination of old and new.

The Building Blocks chapter has been split into two: the first bringing together the information on oscillators from various parts of the previous edition; the second covering everything else. Antenna basics, and transmission lines, whether for HF or VHF/UHF now have their own chapters, with practical antenna designs having their own frequency-related chapters. Also, the old Microwave section has been split into radios and antennas. The valves chapter is now combined with semiconductors.

The use of several new authors has led to many chapters being completely re-written. This includes those covering antennas, 136kHz, VHF/UHF, microwaves, Morse and digital communications.

The main editorial change between the 7th edition and this one is to recognise that computers play a major part in most radio amateurs' workshops and shacks. The world wide web is a much more stable publishing environment nowadays, so web addresses are frequently quoted in the References sections as sources of further information. A new chapter describes the software and computer-based information resources that are now available to assist the constructor, and several chapters include the use of computer programs in the design and analysis of circuits and antennas.

One new chapter brings together all twenty parts of 'Pic-a-Star', an innovative *RadCom* series describing a transmitter and receiver, controlled by software and using modern construction techniques.

The only area that has been dropped from this edition is Operating. If you need information on this topic, please note that the *RSGB Amateur Radio Operating Manual*, which was completely revised in 2004, covers all aspects of amateur radio operating in detail.

Once again, the *Radio Communication Handbook* combines the knowledge and experience of many experts. The book deserves a place on the shelf of everyone who designs or builds radio equipment for any frequency from LF to microwaves, or who just wants to understand more about what goes on inside their radio equipment.

Finally, I am indebted to Technical Editor Eur Ing Chris Lorek, B Sc (Hons), C Eng, G4HCL, for his valuable contributions, comments and proof-reading.

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