

**SPECIAL
PRODUCT
REPORT**



**LOWE
ELECTRONICS
LTD.**

**SRX-30
GENERAL
COVERAGE
RECEIVER**

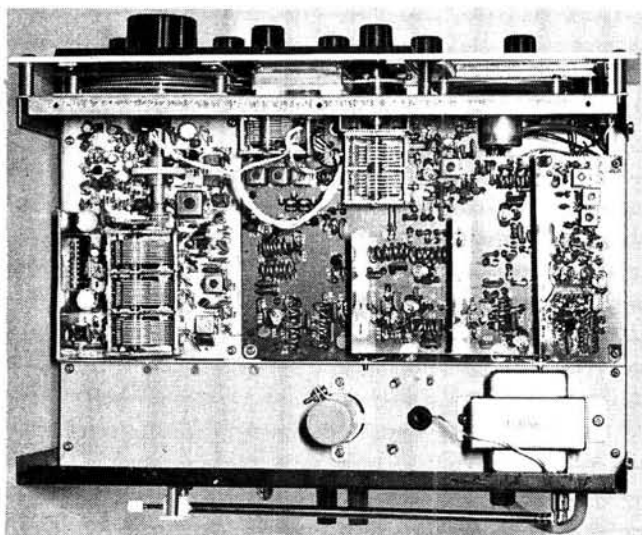


The Lowe SRX-30 is a general coverage receiver, principally for the serious short-wave listener and covers the range 500kHz to 30MHz.

A variety of "on-air" tests were made with this equipment using both long wire and beam aerials and in all respects, save perhaps the actual audio quality it performed well. Selectivity was quite adequate in all but the most difficult cases of crowding and the overall stability of the receiver was particularly good.

In conjunction with a Trio transmitter, many contacts were made with W, VK and several of the more exotic countries and the SRX-30 gave a good account of itself throughout—lacking only in bandspread, of course, which is to be expected in most receivers of this type.

Several converters were tried with the receiver, and here some little difficulty was experienced. It is not possible to disconnect the telescopic aerial fitted to the receiver, unless one is prepared to get inside and unsolder it, and this can,



under strong-signal conditions, cause breakthrough of 10m signals. The aerial input arrangements too may cause some problems if outboard converters are to be used and a simple solution would be to fit an SO239 coaxial socket and detach the fixed telescopic aerial altogether.

The controls of the SRX-30 are all mounted on the front panel and are widely spaced ensuring that even the largest hands do not get tangled up. The tuning unit is mounted on the front panel at the top right and has the pre-selector, MHz tune and kHz tune controls with the concentric tuning scales visible through the window above the kHz knob. The dials are illuminated and were easy to read, the MHz dial being calibrated into distinct separate 1MHz bands while the kHz dial is calibrated from 000 to 1000 in steps of 10. The kHz control is operated via a 6:1 slow motion drive which proved to be smooth in action. This made the tuning of the set relatively easy and it was possible to return to a frequency, even after an appreciable time, without any great difficulty.

Like most modern communications receivers the SRX-30 uses the Wadley Loop triple-conversion superheterodyne system which was fully described in the July issue of *Practical Wireless*. The front end of this receiver was remarkably stable, making tuning a pleasure.

The pre-selector was also simple to operate with no dials or drums to worry about, the knob being merely turned until maximum signal is found. An r.f. attenuator control is fitted which provides some 30dB of attenuation in the fully clockwise position.

A clear S meter, illuminated when the supply is on, is mounted next to the tuning dial and proved easy to read.

The Clarify control, calibrated from -5 to +5 gives fine tuning over a frequency range of ± 3 kHz to enable the pitch of a station operating on s.s.b. or c.w. to be accurately set.

The audio side of this receiver is a bit of a let-down and certainly did not match the rest of the set. Using the small internal speaker was a disappointment, the quality of reproduction being poor. This is probably a function of the speaker used and its mounting in the metal cabinet, as, using an

★ specifications

Frequency Coverage: 0.5 to 30MHz in 1MHz bands with 10kHz graduations on dial

Reception Modes: CW, USB and AM

Sensitivity: At least 10dB (S+N) N under following conditions:

Mode	Frequency	Input Level
SSB	0.5-2MHz	1.0μV
	2-30MHz	0.3μV
AM	0.5-2MHz	3.0μV
	2-30MHz	1.0μV

(AM: 1000Hz at 30% modulation)

These voltages are half the open circuit signal generator voltage, i.e., the voltage read on the meter of a HP Model 606 Generator

Output: 200mW output on SSB at 2MHz with input signal of 0.5μV and 2W output with 5μV input

Audio Distortion: Less than 5% at 2 watts

Calibration Accuracy: Within 5kHz at all frequencies
Bandwidth (-6dB): SSB 3kHz ±25%; AM 5.5kHz ±25%.

Image Rejection: Greater than 50dB

IF Rejection: Greater than 50dB at f_d below 20MHz.
 Greater than 40dB at f_d above 20MHz

Antenna: External connection to terminal strip (75Ω input impedance-unbalanced). A self-contained telescoping whip is provided for strong local signals

Audio Output Provisions: Internal 8Ω speaker. A phone jack on the front panel which disables the internal speaker

Power Supply: 100, 117, 220, 240V a.c. 50-60Hz; External 12V d.c. supply connected via rear panel connector

Current Consumption: Less than 100mA quiescent at 12V d.c.

Clarifier: Tunes minimum of ±2KHz and maximum of ±5kHz

Size: 325mm W. 230mm D. 140mm H

Weight: 5kg

external speaker, which plugs into a socket on the rear panel, improved the audio quality.

The small telescopic whip aerial mounted on the rear panel and hinged so as to be stowable when not in use was useful but proved to be a nuisance when not in use as it cannot be disconnected from the aerial input to the set. A useful modification might be to make the whip dismantlable if not required.

Construction is of a sound standard throughout, the majority of components being mounted on glass-fibre printed circuit boards.

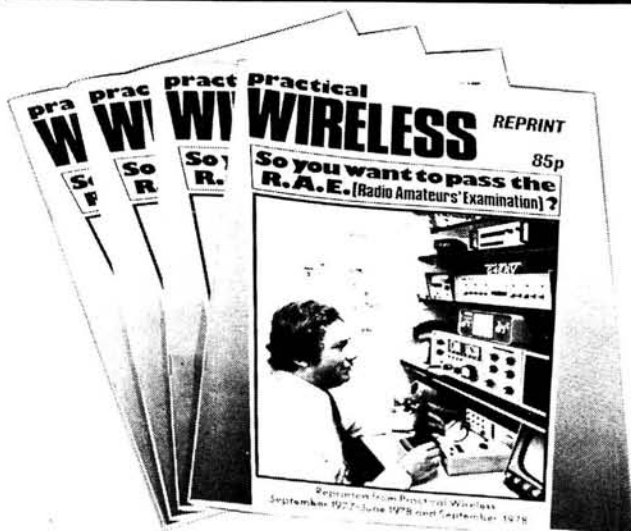
The instruction book was rather spartan with no maintenance information given and only a roughly drawn circuit diagram included on a separate sheet.

The main attraction of the SRX-30 must be its simplicity of operation, especially for the newcomer to the hobby. It is a pity that the audio performance does not do the r.f. side justice.

Prices

SRX-30 receiver £178.00 including 15% VAT. The SRX-30 receiver reviewed was kindly loaned by Lowe Electronics Ltd., 119 Cavendish Road, Matlock, Derbyshire. Tel: 0629 2430, and we would like to thank them for their invaluable assistance in this respect.

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