

The Radio Shack HTX-212 2 Meter Transceiver

BY LEW McCOY*, W1ICP

Radio Shack's HTX-212 is a very neat base-station type transceiver. It measures $1\frac{5}{8}$ "H \times $5\frac{9}{16}$ "W \times $6\frac{3}{16}$ "D and weighs 20 ounces. Frequency coverage is 136 to 174 MHz on receive and 144.6 to 148.0 MHz on transmit. Frequency steps are in increments of 5, 10, 12.5, 20, 25, 50, or 100 kHz.

The receiver has two intermediate frequencies—one at 21.4 MHz and the other at 455 kHz. Sensitivity is rated at 12 dB sinad at 0.25 μ V, and in our tests it showed up slightly better than the 0.25 μ V. Squelch sensitivity is rated at 0.1 μ V threshold and holds "tight" at 10 dB above threshold. Spurious and adjacent channel rejection is better than 60 dB.

We tested the unit for intermod and found it clean. Our tests were near Franklin Mountain in El Paso and South Mountain in Phoenix. Both of these locations are loaded with VHF and UHF stations, and the HTX-212 handled the situations with ease. I might add that it is very easy to test equipment such as this in the laboratory, but the real proof of the pudding is on location.

For the transmitter, there are two power levels available: 10 watts for low and 45 watts for high. Maximum deviation is 5 kHz. Spurious and harmonic emissions are down at least 60 dB.

Microphone sensitivity is 4 mV RMS. CTCSS tone deviation is 0.75 kHz and DTMF tone deviation is 3.5 kHz. Power drain is rated at 9 amps for 45 watts output and 7 amps for 10 watts.

There are many features in the transceiver. There are 31 memory channels available. One of these channels (channel 1) lets you set the HTX-212 to periodically check the stored memory channel for activity. You can individually program repeater offsets for each channel, plus there is a manually controlled offset for other repeaters.

Subaudible tones for transmit and receive are also included for closed systems.

Another feature is extended band coverage from 136 to 174 MHz for MARS, and CAP frequencies—both transmit and receive. The unit also has dual VFOs for use as needed.

The HTX-212 has an extremely well-detailed instruction manual (43 pages) which is easy to read and follow. Complete circuit diagrams are included. I usually mention such information at the end of a review, but this is worth pointing out here and now. Radio Shack includes a complete product guarantee for one year from date of purchase. If there is a problem, just return the unit to any Radio Shack store for repair.

So how does the HTX-212 work? I was pleased with the performance and reports. The



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liquid-crystal display is clear and easy to read (see fig. 1, which illustrates most of the functions on the display).

The unit is list-priced at \$349.99 and is distributed by Radio Shack, a division of The Tandy Corporation, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

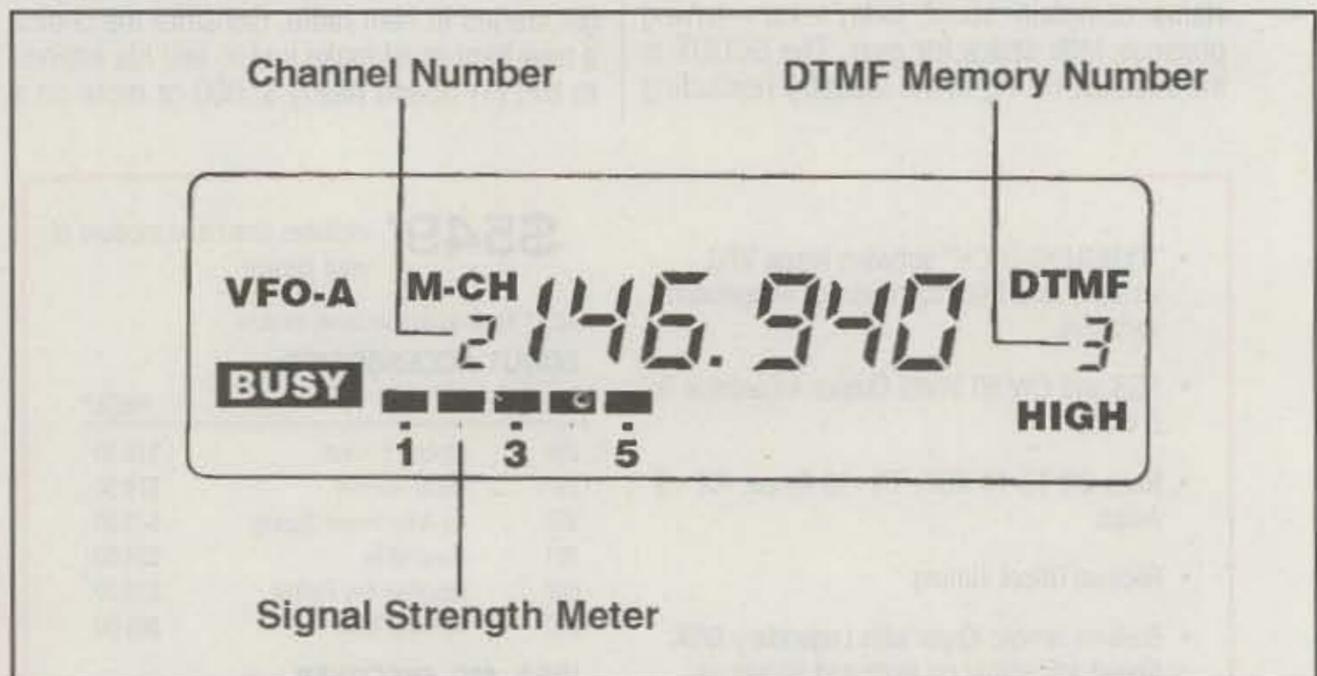


Fig. 1— This illustration of the display panel of the HTX-212 two meter transceiver was taken from the instruction manual.

*Technical Editor, CQ, 1500 West Idaho Street, Silver City, NM 88061