

signal products. If this CPU clock noise should occur on the DV-V57, simply tap the shift key and rotate the tuning dial to change the frequency of that interference.

❖ DJ-V57 Design Specifications

Frequency modulation (FM) is the only mode used for transmitting and receiving. For transmitting, a variable-reactance modulator is used for both wide and narrow deviation (+/-5 kHz standard FM, +/-2.5 kHz narrow band FM). Spurious emissions are suppressed at least 60 dB.

Frequency steps of 5, 10, 12.5, 15, 20, 25, and 30 kHz are selectable for standard channelization band plans. Frequency stability is +/-2.5 parts per million (ppm).

The radio can be powered and the battery may be charged from any external 7-16 VDC source. Current drain during reception is 250 mA and 80 mA on standby (squelched). A battery-save function reduces the receive power drain even further (27 mA).

The receiver is a double-conversion super-

heterodyne with first and second intermediate frequencies (IFs) of 38.85 MHz and 450 kHz respectively.

Sensitivity for standard 12 dB SINAD (signal-to-noise and distortion ratio) is specified as 0.2 microvolts (uV) on VHF, and 0.25 uV on UHF. An LCD bargraph shows relative received signal strengths.

Selectivity is stated as -6/-60 dB for 12 kHz (or more)/35 kHz (or more). This seems to fudge a bit on real numbers, much like saying your car gets 25 miles (or less) per gallon. In our actual on-air operational test, selectivity was barely adequate for the frequency spacing of most channelization plans, especially in this current era of narrow-banding. More specifically, the filters should be satisfactory for separating signals of its primary intent, ham radio, where adjacent-channel operation is rare and channels are more widely separated.

But, in crowded metropolitan listening to public safety channels, adjacent-channel interference may be encountered. In such cases the attenuator function can be invoked, or the squelch may be adjusted to reduce the adjacent-channel bleed-over, or the tuning dial may need

to be set another step higher or lower to get away from the interference.

❖ Finally, how to hit the reset button!

One of the most desirable features of any multifunction radio is the “Boy, have I ever screwed this radio up!” reset. By simply pressing two keys as the radio turned on, the original baseline factory-presets are returned and you can start all over again!

Even better, an option allows all the factory presets to be restored, but retains your custom-entered memory channels.

❖ The bottom line

Alinco's new DJ-V57 hand-held, dual-band, VHF/UHF transceivers is a winner. Its low cost (list price \$149.95), wide frequency coverage (the two most popular VHF/UHF bands), and multiple functions combine to make this a bargain radio, both for the beginner who needs easy operation, and the experienced ham who is looking for advanced functions.

The Take Charge Powersavers

Review by Bob Grove W8JHD

One of the most overlooked power wasters in our homes and offices is the AC adapter which remains on permanently even after its accessory equipment is turned off. Many pieces of electronic equipment continue to draw current after their power switches are turned off as well.

Take a look around your home at the number of AC cords plugged into the wall, not only in your hobby area, but even your home entertainment center. iPhones and tablets, cell phone and digital camera chargers, DVRs, printers, laptop computers – the list is considerable.

The wasted electric power when measured over time is consequential. According to the International Energy Association (IEA), these types of accessories cost on the average \$50 a year, about twice the cost of some new accessories from Take Charge called the Power Savers.

Take Charge developed a unique method of switching off multiple accessories automatically when not in use. Looking like a conventional multiple-outlet extension, it has eight AC outlets with specific capabilities.

Two of the outlets are permanently on in the usual extension mode, but five of the outlets switch on and off automatically as the equipment or appliance plugged into the eighth (control) outlet is turned on or off by the operator.

For example, suppose you have your radio

base station plugged into the control outlet. You could plug the AC adaptors or AC cords from an antenna rotator, computer, printer, scanner, and auxiliary radio into the five switched outlets, and still have two hot outlets that remain on for an electric clock and any other item you'd like to remain on.

When you switch on the main equipment – in this example your base station – all of the accessories plugged into the five controlled outlets switch on automatically. And when you're done, simply switch off the main rig and all five accessories switch off (except for the “always on” accessories).

A circuit breaker is also mounted on the unit to reset any surge-protected shutdown.

❖ Let's check it out

Plugging a lamp into one of the five switched outlets, I attempted to switch it on by activating several different appliances, from a few watts up to 1600 watts, plugged into the control outlet. It activated immediately when I turned on any equipment that's plugged into the control receptacle which provided at least a 40 watt load. Switching off the main equipment,

and all the accessories switched off, just as they're supposed to do!

❖ There's more

TakeCharge has also released two timed docking bays designed to shut off those chargers after they've finished refreshing rechargeable batteries. Each has three switched receptacles and one “always-on” receptacle for a total of 10 amps of current.

Both models include two indicator lights, one to reveal an ungrounded third wire which would invalidate the surge protection, and the other to show timed charging is on. A pushbutton initiates the charge time for three hours. A circuit breaker reset button is also present.

The UTC4W is a wall-plug-mount unit that attaches directly to a conventional duplex wall outlet, while the UTC4S is a traditional power strip with the same outlets and a two-foot cord with a right-angle, three-wire plug.

All three devices are warranted against equipment damages by the following deposition:

“Will replace any connected equipment, up to \$50,000, damaged by power disturbances, while connected to a functioning Take Charge Power-Saver.”

The UTC8MS (\$29.95), UTC4W (\$24.95), and UTC4S (\$27.95) are all available from Grove Enterprises (1-800-438-8155) or online at www.grove-ent.com.

