

What's NEW

Tell them you saw it in Monitoring Times

Radio Shack Pro-107 iScan Scanner

Radio Shack has a new triple conversion scanner built for them by GRE – the Pro-107. They bill their new scanner as “the one that changes everything.”

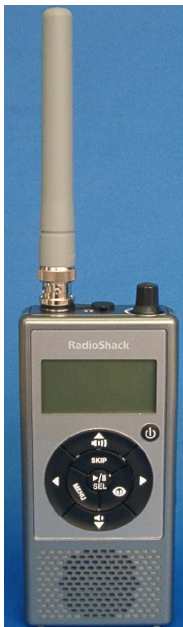
The Radio Shack PRO-107 iScan is a multi-trunking scanner which boasts the ability to track Motorola type I/II, LTR, and EDACS trunk systems using a Radioreference database on an included 2GB Secure Digital card. This internal SD card has full U.S. databases for all known analog public-service trunked systems and many conventional frequencies as well.

The Pro-107 uses the radio control software and a supplied USB/power cable. Firmware updates are possible on this radio via the PC/IF to USB port connection. Full duplex support and USB connection is available using this supplied cable; however, it will not allow the user to access the SD card in the radio.

This new iScan scanner is a computer programmable scanner which uses the previously mentioned RadioReference database on an SD card. Select where you are and what you want to scan from pre-installed lists. Radio Shack claims that it's as easy to use as an MP3 player. Hit Play (not SCAN) and you are scanning local public safety services.

Some of the major features of this scanner include:

- Object oriented memory management. Number of conventional channels, trunked systems, sites-per-system, and talkgroups-per-system limited only by available file space on the SD Card. Object programmable display alert (including multi-pattern flashing) to assign to talkgroups, frequencies, agencies, etc.
- No traditional keypad. Radio uses media player style buttons to navigate to user programmed playlists.
- Stores millions of frequencies that can be categorized into 20 playlists. SD preprogrammed with entire USA Radioreference database; additionally can use high capacity secure digital cards as long as 32kB memory block clusters are used.
- Six search ranges / one user definable search range; no programming required to listen to police, fire, aircraft, marine, FRS/GMRS, CB and HAM.
- Hear Skywarn severe weather reports – Skywarn list can be programmed with any number of “objects”
- Weather band with enhanced SAME Weather



- Alert functions and weather priority – access weather channels and alerts with the push of a button. Does not alarm unless the weather alert is really for your specified area.
- Signal Stalker II near field frequency capture – searches for nearby 2-way radio transmissions within approximately 1,000 feet of the radio
- Follows the vast majority of local analog police/fire/emergency trunked systems
- Includes PC interface for cloning, uploading and downloading
- Frequency Coverage 25-50 MHz VHF-Lo; 50-54 MHz 6-meter Ham; 108-136.99166 MHz Civilian Aircraft; 137-144 MHz VHF Military; 144-148 MHz 2-meter Ham; 148-174 MHz VHF-Hi; 216.0025-221.9975 and 222-225 MHz; 225.025-405.975 MHz Military Aircraft and miscellaneous services; 406-512 MHz and 806-960 MHz (excluding cellular bands) UHF; 1240-1300 MHz Ham band.

We hope to have additional information on this new Radio Shack scanner in a future *First Look* review.

QRP ROMPS by Dave Ingram, K4TWJ

In the pioneer days of radio, two-way communications were conducted by Morse code. To facilitate speed, a system of abbreviations – “Q codes” – was developed. Many of these are still used, mostly by hams, such as QRM (man-made interference), QSL (confirmation of a contact), QTH (location), and QRP (using low power).

Many long-time hams, bored by the usual high-power assurance of steady contacts, experiment with the challenges of low power. These stalwart hobbyists have agreed on any power not greater than 5 watts to qualify as QRP.

Well-known writer Dave Ingram, K4TWJ, has assembled a neat, well-illustrated, easy (and fun) to read, 88 page manual on the techniques and equipment for QRPers. It's made me think about abandoning my 100 watt HF rig in favor of a teensy portable running on batteries!

Many of these tiny rigs are conveniently and inexpensively housed in tuna tins, Altoids™ packs, and other handy housings!

Divided into eight chapters, Dave has presented every facet of QRP operation – commercial equipment, antennas, home-brew rigs, kits, power supplies, clubs, contests, and successful QSO (contact) stories.

While most QRPers prefer CW (continuous wave – Morse code) because of the narrow bandwidth advantage of reduced noise levels, there are plenty of phone operators as well.

Imagine enjoying world-wide communications while pedaling in the great outdoors on a bi-

cycle! It's done. Or how about mountain topping with a tiny rig, camping out with a panoramic view of the horizon? That's a treat as well, one to share with friends or family. Then there's the stalwart backpacker, rig in the pack and a whip sticking out the top! They are all being done.

I certainly enjoyed reading Dave's treatise on the fun of low-power contacts. If QRP sounds adventurous to you, this glossy, spiral-bound, photo-packed volume is the book to order. It's available for only \$18 from several *MT* advertisers, including Universal Radio www.universal-radio.com/catalog/books/3081.html and the American Radio Relay League www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0160. – Review by Bob Grove, W8JHD

Free Ham Radio Publication

Do you like free? Well, I sure do, and now you can get a great ham radio publication for the fabulous price of “free.”

But first, let's step back a bit for a little history lesson. Back in November of 2008, CQ Communications, Inc. acquired *WorldRadio* magazine, then published by Armond Noble, N6WR. CQ Communications, Hicksville, New York, currently publishes *CQ Amateur Radio*, *CQ VHF* and *Popular Communications* magazines.

WorldRadio, based in Sacramento, California, had been published monthly since July 1971, with a primary focus on the human side of ham radio. *CQ*, a general-interest ham radio magazine best known for its support of DXing and contesting, has been in print since January 1945.

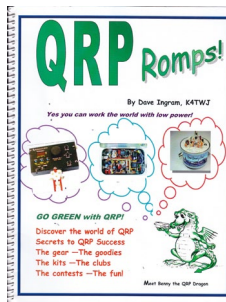
Armond Noble, N6WR, Publisher of *WorldRadio*, said that at the age of 74 the time had come for him to retire. “I wanted to be sure that *WorldRadio* found a good home, and that our readers would continue to be served by an independent voice in amateur radio,” Noble said.

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, said, “*WorldRadio* has filled an important niche in our hobby for nearly four decades. We welcome *WorldRadio*'s readers to the *CQ* family, and we look forward to meeting their needs for many years to come.”

Now for the good news: *WorldRadio* continues to be published online as part of the *CQ* family of magazines, with Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C, continuing in that position. The magazine is available only in electronic Adobe PDF format.

You can access the current and all of the past electronic editions only by going to www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WorldRadio.html. They even have a signup service via email that will notify you when new editions are available at the website listed above.

Oh, yeah, did I mention it was “free?” Why, yes I did!



C. Crane CCRadio-2

The new CCRadio-2 has the same familiar look and layout as previous models of the CCRadio, but with improved AM reception and the addition of the 2-meter ham band. The boost in AM performance comes from a new patented Twin-Coil Ferrite® AM Antenna, and other improvements built into the CCRadio-2. For instance, AM station audio has been optimized for voice clarity. After you select a station, the CCRadio-2 evaluates the received signal for several seconds and then locks in for the highest signal possible. Early reports indicate that the FM reception is a little better in this model than in the CCRadioplus.



In addition to including the standard AM and FM bands, the CCRadio-2 has all seven of the U.S. NOAA weather radio frequencies to keep you informed of any government-issued alerts. And, addition of the 2-meter ham band – a feature we have never seen before in a portable radio of this type – may make the CCRadio-2 a life saver during an emergency like hurricane Katrina. The reason for adding this is that ham operators are usually the early responders on the scene, and they donate their time while handling traffic for emergency coordination efforts.

The CCRadio-2 can act like a simple radio scanner and search the five memories for ham operator communications. The sensitivity (squelch) can be adjusted for best results.

The CCRadio-2 comes in the original black mica or a new titanium color. It features a brighter, clearer LCD display with a full backlight and three levels of adjustable brightness, plus an “off” setting. Five years ago they made several changes to the durability of their CCRadio LCD display that have proven to be robust.

Other features include: 5 memories per band (AM, FM, Weather and 2-meter ham bands), adjustable display light, adjustable bass and treble, clock alarm, sleep timer, auto scan, stereo headphone jack, line-input jack, and line-output jack.

The radio has been especially designed for long-range AM reception and has now added emergency reception! Weight: 4 lbs (without optional batteries) Size: 11” W x 6.5” H x 4” D.

The CCRadio-2 sells for \$159.95 plus free shipping and is available at www.ccrane.com or by calling toll free 1-800-522-8863.

Ham Radio Award Program Publication

One of the premier amateur radio award programs, the Islands on the Air (IOTA), has

released their latest awards directory, the *IOTA Directory*. Edited by Roger Balister, G3KMA and Steve Telenius-Lowe, 9M6DX, this new edition celebrates 45 years of island collecting.

What is island collecting? The not-so-simple act of collecting QSL cards by working the world’s multitude of islands – a challenging and rewarding feat in amateur radio. The *IOTA Directory* is the essential guide to participating in the Islands on the Air (IOTA) award program. This latest edition builds on the extensive data reviewed seen in recent years and is fully updated. The complete, official listing of IOTA islands is here, along with many recent changes and award rules.

However, the *IOTA Directory* is much more than just a simple list. A special lead feature celebrates the 45 years of the IOTA program that is respected around the world. There are fascinating reports of IOTA operations in places as far flung as India, Alaska, Tunisia, and even Banana Island in Sierra Leone.

The *IOTA Directory* provides everything you need to participate in IOTA, from lists of islands, grouped by continent and indexed by prefix, to application forms and masses of information and advice for island hunters, award applicants, and DXpeditioners alike. The IOTA annual contest, which takes place in July each year, is fully covered along with contest rules and details of the latest IOTA Honor roll.

Whether you are already involved or are interested in earning this amateur radio operating award, this directory should be in your shack. It is a must-have for every island chaser!

Size 210x297mm, 128 pages, (ISBN 9781-9050-8651-1). The *Directory* is published by the Radio Society of Great Britain and is available at their website (www.rsgbshop.org/acatalog/Online_Catalogue_IOTA_42.html). It is also available in the U.S. from the ARRL website (www.arrl.org/catalog) for \$19.95 plus shipping.

I should also point out the IOTA program website at www.rsgbiota.org/. Once you register for a free account, you can obtain a lot of information on this program, submit cards for the various IOTA awards, and even get IOTA credit for qualifying contacts you make during the annual IOTA contest.

This is a fun program to work and the IOTA Directory and website will help you enjoy it even more.

World Radio TV Handbook 2010

The 2010 edition of *World Radio TV Handbook*, has recently released the 64th edition, for the worldwide listening and viewing audience. This year’s edition begins with *WRTH* Receiver Reviews from low-cost/low-end portables to high end table top receivers. There is also a nostalgic look back at Cold War classic receivers.

In another feature, John Nelson returns to Bush House, the home of the BBC World Service

and discovers the many changes since the early days, and conducts two interviews discussing advances in technology and the future.

Digital Update continues with the regular round-up of what has been happening in the world of TV and digital radio during the past year. Is it possible the national digital radio is headed for a DMB-based (Digital Multimedia Broadcasting) future?

David Ricquish, of the Radio Heritage Foundation, first wrote on the Samoan radio scene in 1995. Since then, Radio Polynesia has expanded to four modern FM stations, and listeners as far as Europe still log the elusive signals. Follow David, as he looks back at the radio landscape from Samoa.

George Jacob explains the effects of Cycle 24 in his *HF Broadcast Reception Expected During 2010*. This year he predicts an increasing number of stations returning to the 17 and 21 MHz bands.

The *National Radio* section covers the world’s domestic radio services. Listings are by-country and include all stations currently broadcasting on longwave, medium wave, shortwave, and FM with contact details.

International Radio provides details of all countries broadcasting internationally. Details include station name, personnel, postal addresses, broadcasting schedules and website information, as well as medium wave, FM, shortwave and terrestrial television. The *Clandestine and other Target Broadcast* lists stations targeting programming from Cameroon to Zimbabwe.

The frequency list contains international medium wave by-frequency listings, followed by *Shortwave Stations of the World* and a by-hour listing of *Broadcast in English, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish*, as well as *DRM International Broadcasters and Terrestrial Television*. An extensive reference section provides the listener with listening aids, transmitting information and more.

The *World Radio TV Handbook* continues to set the radio hobby standard. It remains the best, most authoritative and comprehensive radio reference book in the world, one that should be in every hobbyist’s listening post or radio room. Quite simply, it is an ultimate and indispensable guide – one not to be missed.

WRTH 2010 (BOK-03-10) is available from Grove Enterprises www.grove-ent.com for \$29.95 plus shipping and handling. To place an order by phone 1-800-438-8155, postal address: 7540 Hwy 64 West, Brasstown, NC 28902. – Review by Gayle Van Horn

Books and equipment for announcement or review should be sent to What’s New, c/o Monitoring Times, 7540 Highway 64 West, Brasstown, NC 28902. Press releases may be faxed to 828-837-2216 or emailed to Larry Van Horn, larryvanhorn@monitoringtimes.com.

When ordering or inquiring about the products mentioned in this column, be sure to tell them that you saw it in the pages of *Monitoring Times* magazine.

