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REVIEW

NITELOGGER II

By Bob Grove W8JHD

One of the most popular accessories on the scanner scene is the Nitellogger, a time compressor for recording communications off the air. It was unavailable for a while during manufacturing upgrades, but now it's back as the Nitellogger II. So, just what makes this little device so useful?

Scanner enthusiasts know the frustration of having to wait long periods of time for activity on some frequencies; they can attach a tape recorder to the scanner's audio output jack, but when the recording is played back, the long periods of silence are still there – right up until the tape runs out.

News organizations and public safety communications centers as well have a need to record activity for later review or to archive for legal reasons.

Nitellogger II is not a tape recorder, but it's an automatic, sound-activated device which starts the recorder only when a transmission is heard, thus compressing hours of monitoring time on a single tape without the long delays between transmissions. Thus, unattended, the Nitellogger II will record a considerable period of monitoring for later review in a much shorter time.

❖ The details

Nitellogger II has an impressively refined, professional look, and well it should. It is easy to use, flexible, reliable, and feature packed for every listening requirement. It comes with audio and activation cables for interconnection with the scanner and tape recorder, and includes an AC

wall adaptor as well. Designed for 12 volt power, it can also be battery-operated for mobile, portable or discreet installations.

Measuring only 4-1/2" x 3-1/4" x 2" and weighing less than a pound, Nitellogger II is a compact accessory for any location. Interface is provided by three jacks: Audio input (8 ohms nom.), audio output (600 ohms nom.), and control (switch for record activator).

Since plugging into a scanner's external speaker jack automatically disables the speaker, Nitellogger II has an internal speaker to provide audio monitoring during the recording session if desired; speaker volume level may be adjusted by a front-panel control.

Simple voice activators (VOX) often result in choppy recordings; Nitellogger II offers user adjustment of delay after sound stops from 1/4 second (250 mS) to 2.5 seconds, similar to the scan-resume delay found to be most effective on scanners. This provides a smoother recording session, avoiding the choppiness and "wow" from too-frequent motor start-ups.

The activator relay uses silver-nickel contacts to increase the lifetime of activations, typically 10 million. That should be enough for any recording session – and for years to come! The contacts can handle up to 2 amperes of current at 30 volts DC, well above normal tape recorder requirements.

❖ Let's try it out

Connecting and using the Nitellogger II couldn't be quicker or easier. The molded plugs

are inserted into the scanner and tape recorder, the wall adaptor is plugged in, and the monitor volume is adjusted for comfort while a signal (like your local weather channel) is being received. A small screwdriver (not included) is used to adjust the front-panel input level as revealed by an illuminated LED; a second LED reports the activation of the tape recorder. That's it.

But we don't always want to be recording, so rather than having to unplug the device, a front-panel switch allows instant selection of disabling the recorder, operating the Nitellogger II, or returning control to the tape recorder so the tapes may be played.

All in all, a very useful device at an economical price. Nitellogger II is available from Grove Enterprises for \$49.95; call 800-438-8155, email order@grove-ent.com, or write 7540 Hwy 64 West, Brasstown, NC 28902.

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