

# The Fairhaven RD500

## A Second Look At An Intriguing Receiver

Having already reviewed the RD500 receiver last year, John Wilson was pleased when Fairhaven offered a second look following revisions to the original receiver. How could he refuse?

**A**lthough still called the RD500, there have been some real changes to the unit, the first being a decided upgrade in the external appearance. The finish on the case, and the addition of a neat styling touch in having the name Fairhaven incorporated on the top cover make the RD500 much more attractive to look at, and whilst I appreciate that this doesn't help the performance of a receiver, it does show that the makers are listening to what their customers are saying and actually doing something about it. More interesting to me was the change of first i.f. filter frequency and the upgrading of the filter specification to take account of my original observations about the non symmetrical nature of the i.f. response and the effect this had on the signal handling capabilities of the receiver.

### It Ain't Heavy - Its just Heavier

When I lifted the RD500 I realised that this was heavier than I remembered and was impressed by the two N-type professional antenna connectors on the rear panel in addition to the original pair of SO-239 connectors, which you may recall were for connection of either a low impedance coaxial fed antenna for the l.f./m.f./h.f. ranges or a whip antenna at a higher impedance. You may also remember the clever use of both connectors at the same time to provide r.f. noise cancelling facilities. The two new connectors were labelled "48 to 860MHz" and "860 to 1750MHz" so here was something exciting, because I hadn't expected the test receiver to come equipped with this amazing frequency coverage. And amazing it is when you consider how compact the RD500 seems in



comparison to other receivers, even those which do a great deal less than the Fairhaven.

Since the v.h.f. and u.h.f. coverage were the most important additions since my first review, let's start with how the receiver performed up there in the wide open spaces. I had an immediate problem in that my Rohde & Schwarz SMY generator stops at 1040MHz so I couldn't carry out sensitivity measurements above that frequency. However, with a measured sensitivity at 1040MHz on narrow f.m. of -118dBm for 12dB SINAD, the receiver was clearly pretty hot, so I carried on down as shown in **Table 1**. The sensitivity was measured in dBm for 12dB SINAD with 3kHz deviation at 1kHz for f.m, the RD500 set to 'FMN', and with 60% modulation at 1kHz in a.m., with the RD500 set to 'AMN'. The receiver r.f. pre-amplifier was switched on during the tests.

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