

The Little Bomb

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"A 1000 watt, 5 band linear amplifier weighing 7 pounds?"

Well, it *is* possible, it has finally been done, it goes *mobile*, and best of all, it costs only \$99.95.

It's the new Heathkit HA-14 "KW Kompact" linear amplifier. And "kompact" it is—12 inches wide, 10 inches deep, 3 inches thick, and weighing only 7 pounds!

Basically, Heath took their SB-200 (champion of the low cost kilowatts), removed the power supply, reduced the metering functions to two, and then shrunk the whole thing into a tiny cabinet.

The power supply comes extra. You can get either the HP-24 for 120/240 volt ac operation at \$49.95, or (here you go mobile fans) the HP-14 for 12 volt, negative ground d.c. operation at \$89.95. Both supply all voltages for a full, rounded 1000 watts PEP on sideband, and, since they are separate, they can be conveniently located remotely.

The HA-14 uses either a pair of T160L's or 572-B's in a parallel, grounded grid, class B configuration. It makes no difference which tube number you get, because both will perform equally well. Driving power needed for full rated output is 100 watts.

There is no blower. Ventilation of the two graphite anode power tubes is accomplished by natural convection currents flowing through the completely perforated steel cabinet. My experience so far has indicated that a blower is not necessary.

The KW Kompact features a built-in relative power/SWR meter. It measures relative power and SWR of the exciter plus the linear, or simply the exciter alone. The meter aids greatly in adjusting those sometimes balky mobile antennas. The built-in antenna change-over relay is in a neat little exciter controller circuit that makes it easy to switch from high

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to low power in an instant. (and vice-versa)

Construction of the HA-14 couldn't have been simpler. All of the parts are top quality, made in U.S.A. types. Assembly time from parts to power was just 8 hours.

The instructions were great. Details are given on how to hook the linear up to nearly any exciter. The manual even gives modification procedures to provide an ALC input for the Heathkit Model HW-12, 22, and 32 single-banders.

After you have finished soldering, there is one resistance check to make on the filament line. Then you're ready for the preliminary smoke test. This consists of several bias and filament voltage measurements. The high voltage is left disconnected, and no measurements are made on it.

The KW Kompact is very easy to operate. There are 5 controls in addition to the meter on the front panel—tune, band select, meter sensitivity, meter function, and on-off. With the linear turned off and switched to the band being used, you tune your exciter for 100 watts output. Then switch the linear "on" and rotate the "tune" control for maximum output as shown on the meter. Heath recommends that you work into an SWR of 2:1 or less. I have found that you start having difficulty in loading if you try to use an antenna with an SWR of 2:1 or over.

The HA-14 needed little adjustment when moving from the high to the low portion of the band.

With my little HW-32 and the KW Kompact, I acquired new "prestige" on the airwaves. I can now talk to VK's and ZL's with 5-8 signals with just a trap vertical.

With only four connections to make, it is easy to transfer the HA-14 from the shack to the car. It's hard to explain the feeling you get when you have 1000 watts in your mobile. That extra power sure helps cut through the QRM. And does it ever surprise a lot of hams when they see their S-meter peaking a-way up there—from a mobile!!

I used the Webster Top Sider antenna and their gallon coils with very good results. It's a good idea to keep people away from your mobile antenna while transmitting with the HA-14. Someone could get quite a surprise if they get hooked up with it as you call CQ-DX.

I put a sign on the back bumper reading "CAUTION—1000 watts." You'd be surprised how it kept people from following me too closely on the freeway!!

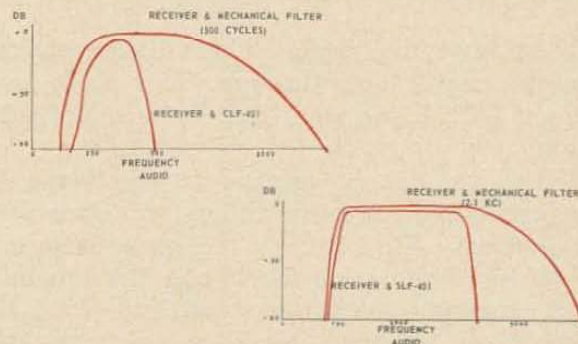
Heathkit's HA-14 KW Kompact is a real jewel—and, strictly state of the art.

... WB6KEH

A NEW SOLUTION TO QRM!



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