Forest Technology Systems

OPERATING AND REFERENCE MANUAL FOR THE RM4000 RADIOMODEM

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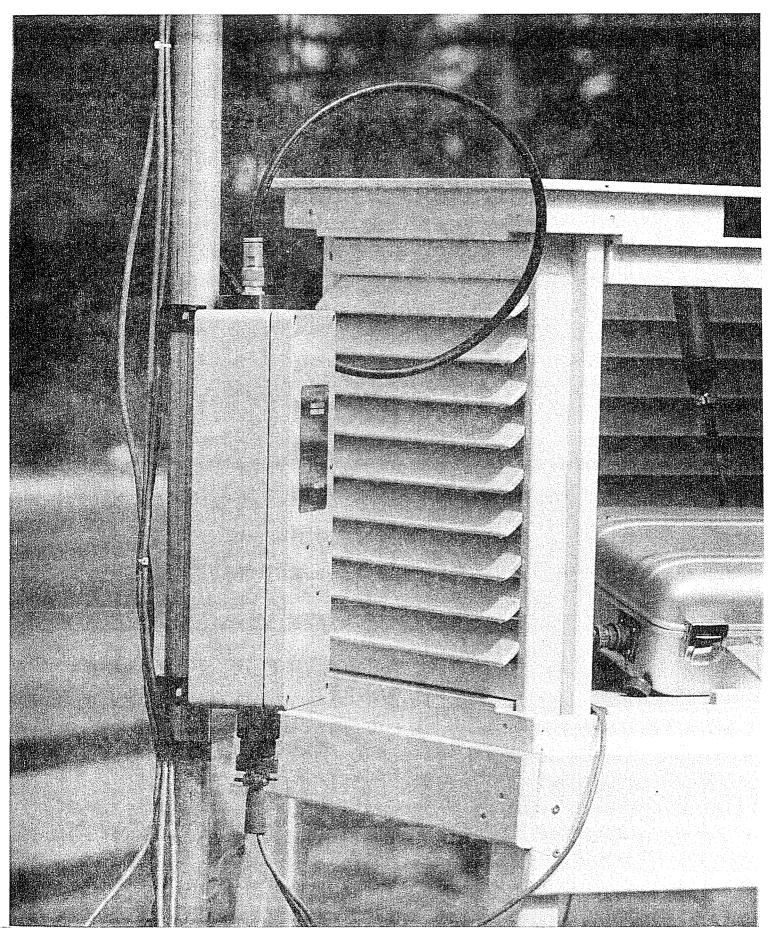
Dennis Watkins

September 1987

Forest Technology Systems Ltd., 841 Goldstream Ave., Victoria, B.C. V9B 2X8 WARNING: This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions manual, may cause interference to radio communications. It has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class A computing device pursuant to Subpart J of Part 15 of FCC Rules, which are designed to provide reasonable protection against such interference operated in a commercial environment. when Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause interference in which case the user at his own expense will be required to take whatever measures may be required to correct the interference.

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INTRODUCTION

The RM4000 radiomodem is ideally suited to transferring small amounts of data from remote locations with no AC power or telephone lines. It was designed to be easily licensed for use with virtually any mobile or portable transceiver working on any of the standard voice bands. It is also possible for a RM4000 data telemetry system to share a voice channel because it spends such a short period of time on the air. In short, the RM4000 is a very convenient way of collecting remote sensor readings.

The RM4000 operates as a polled data communications system. This means that all data being transferred is coordinated by a base station. In typical installations, the base station issues a request for data from the remote site, which then transfers its stored data to the base a short time later. Although it is possible to initiate a data transfer from the remote station, this requires the remote station to be intelligent enough to set up the commands for the RM4000 that cause it to route the data to the proper receiving RM4000. This would involve the proper programming of a sophisticated remote data logger.

In any case, the RM4000 itself takes no measurements directly from the sensors. This is the responsibility of the data logger, which may be a Forest Technology

Systems weather station, or any one of a variety of other units. The only common requirement is that the data logger must have a serial data port to mate with the one on the radiomodem.

The RM4000 has many features not found in other low cost radio operated data gathering equipment. Its low power consumption (less than 12 milliwatts not including transceiver), error detection and correction techniques, and rugged construction make it the best choice for remote, outdoor installations. Its frequency range simply depends on the transceiver that it is chosen to operate with. It may co-exist on normal voice channels, and operate through normal voice repeaters to extend coverage. Finally, we have tried very hard to make the RM4000 easy to operate and install, and we wish you success in your application.

^{*}Note - Before attempting to install this equipment, first read the appropriate sections in the manual at least once. That way, you will be best prepared to have with you all the equipment that will be needed in the installation and testing.

^{*} NOTE - Recently, we were informed by one of our customers that the audio frequency tones used with this telemetry system sound much like the warning tones on certain helicopters. We are aware that most radiomodem systems are used on normal communications channels, and we urge you to make your pilots aware of this when they monitor these channels. Thank you.

INSTALLATION

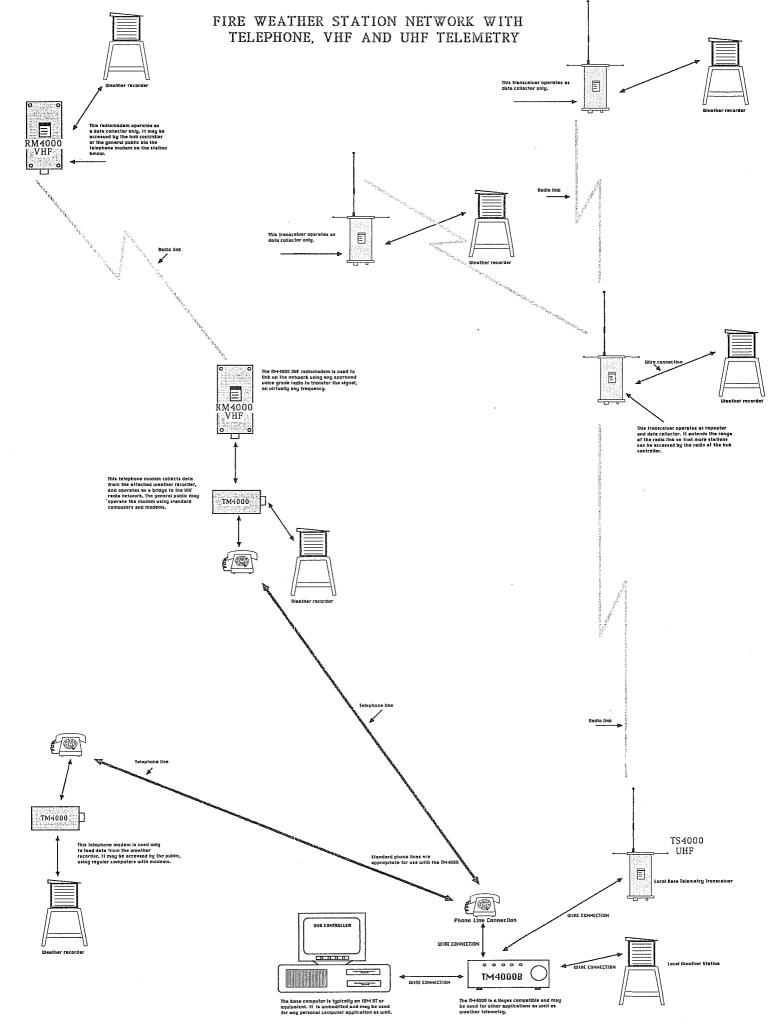
1.1 Field Site Installation

When installed with a WR62 FTS Fire Weather Station, the transceiver for the RM4000 is generally installed inside the RM4000 sealed enclosure prior to delivery. This makes installation much easier, but there are still some important things to remember.

BEFORE YOU HEAD TO THE FIELD ...

1) Check the radio propagation first. Consult a radio communications expert if there is any doubt about the signal quality at your remote site. The range of the radiomodem depends mainly on the output power of the transceiver and the antenna system being used. Undoubtedly, by the time you read this manual, you will already have consulted with Forest Technology Systems as to the type of radio and antenna required, but if further information on the exact specifications is needed to estimate range, you may give us a call. It is also a good idea to double check your estimates with a portable transceiver at the remote site. Keep in mind that the power output of the portable should be similar to the power output of the radiomodem to make the test valid.

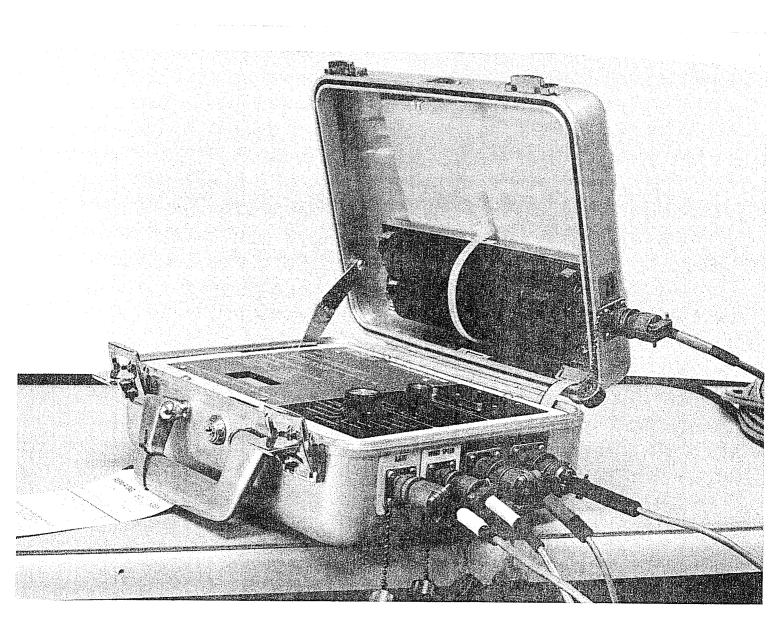
The most important signal is the one sent from the remote radiomodem since it is the one that is carrying the data, so make sure that the signal from the test portable gets through to the base loud and clear. Often



our customers have commented that the remote station answers the base station on every attempt, but that the base station receives the data without checksum errors intermittently. The reasons are twofold. First, the base station has a higher output power / antenna configuration causing the remote station to receive a relatively powerful signal, and secondly the outgoing message is very short so that the chances of error is relatively small.

- 2) Record the serial number on the outside label of the RM4000! Without this number, you have no access code to type into the computer at the base station, and you will have to make another trip to the field. (There are 65534 possible serial numbers) Also, you may have the transceiver mounted internally to the radiomodem for environmental protection. If it is a multichannel unit, make sure it is tuned to the channel that you will be using! You will have to open the cover of the RM4000 and set the channel selector on the transceiver to the channel you require.
- 3) Before you connect the cable harnesses, somehow label the new SP4000B (solar panel) 2 pin threaded connector to indicate that it is to connect to the external power plug on the weather recorder. This is already done for you on modern cable sets with color coding. Older cable sets do not have this feature. If it

is confused with the 2 pin anemometer connector when you are attaching the WR62, a fuse in the SP4000B may blow. If the cables are color coded, match the colors of the weather station connector and the cable connector.

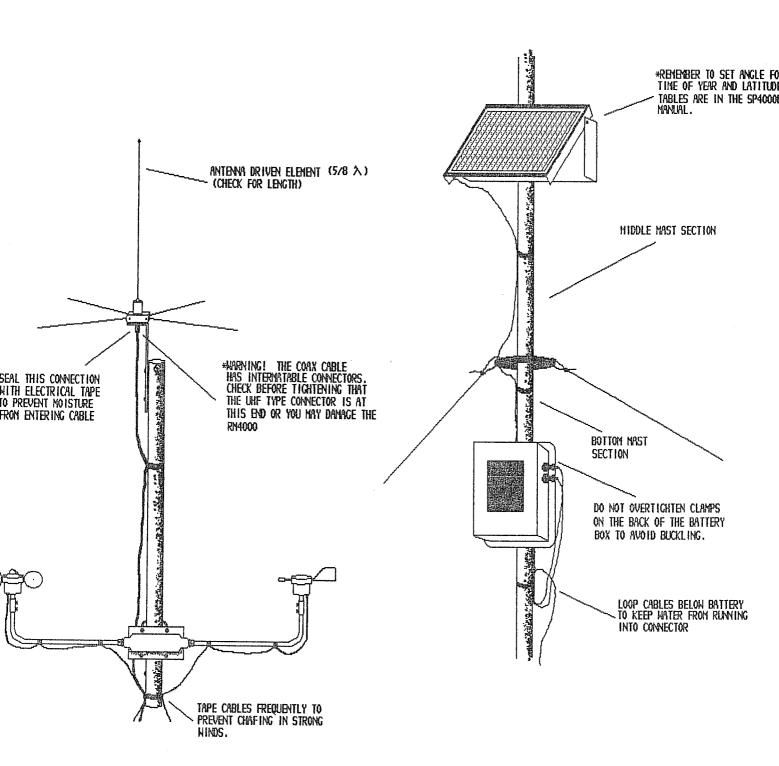


You are now ready to assemble. This description ASSUMES that your remote radiomodem is in the most common configuration, with an internal radio and a hermetically sealed "TYPE N" antenna connector. Sometimes, the radio will be mounted externally, especially withtransceivers in the 25 watt class.

With reference to the diagrams on the following pages, you can see that the standard mast extension we have used in the past to support the wind instruments has been lengthened and increased to one inch diameter. This spar is strong enough to support most antenna systems, and since it is solid, it will withstand any degree of clamping. (See installation card for the weather station for details on setting up the mast.)

The black anodized clamps on the bottom of the RM4000 are designed to fit around the largest diameter (bottom) section of the telescoping mast normally supplied with the weather station. With both the radiomodem and the SP4000B box mounted on the bottom section near the lowest set of guy wires, stability and strength of the mast is optimized.

NEVER TILT UP AN EXTENDED TELESCOPING MAST WITH THE RADIOMODEM AND SOLAR PANEL ALREADY ATTACHED. YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH IT IN THE PAST WHEN THERE WERE ONLY WIND INSTRUMENTS, BUT THE INCREASED WEIGHT OF THE RADIO GEAR WILL BUCKLE THE MAST IF THIS IS ATTEMPTED. USE A LADDER AND EXTEND THE UPPER SECTIONS AFTER YOU HAVE BRACED THE FIRST ONE WITH THE GUY WIRES.

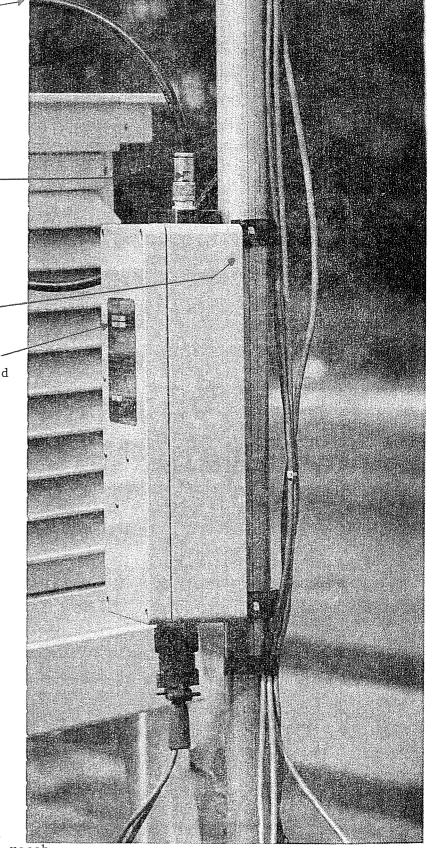


Loop the cable as shown...
The "Drip Loop" helps keep water out of the connector

Tape this connector after installation to keep out water.

Mast clamp (fits only bottom - mast section)

Record this serial number before returning from the field



Bundle excess cable neatly and tape it to the mast out of the reach of rodents.

If the radiomodem is being attached to an existing weather recorder, you will need to collapse the mast and modify the "wind tee" that holds the wind instruments. The old mast extension should be unscrewed from the junction box that holds the two arms of the wind tee and discarded. Remove and discard the cover and screws from the junction box. Attach the square aluminum adaptor plate to the junction box with the two new, longer screws. The adaptor plate holds two U clamps which allow the wind tee to be securely clamped to the new 1 inch diameter solid mast extension. After the mast extension has been bolted to the top of the telescoping mast, tighten the wind tee clamps as near as possible to the bottom of the extension to avoid wind turbulence from the antenna. When you are finished, the top mast section should look like Figure 1.4, except for variations in the antenna system.

When you are connecting the antenna cable, carefully examine the two connectors at each end of the antenna cable. Usually they will be different. Because we were forced to use an expensive high quality "TYPE N" connector to insure the air tightness of the RM4000, we have often encountered problems when people get the antenna connector mixed up with the RM4000 connector. The threads on "PL259" connectors are the same as the threads on "TYPE N", but if the "PL259" is plugged into the "TYPE N", the latter will be ruined. Please beware.

The new SP4000B solar panel kit comes in two parts. First, there is the actual solar panel itself with its own tilting bracket. This should be mounted facing south

in the middle of the second section of the telescoping mast to avoid serious shadows from the guy wires. There is a chart in the back of its manual that is helpful for determining the optimum bracket angle based on the season and the latitude. The other half of the SP4000B contains alo amp - hour lead acid battery and a regulator circuit. Because of its high weight, it is mounted on the bottom section of the mast. NEVER increase the length of the cable between the SP4000B battery box and the RM4000. If this is done, excessive voltage loss in the cable will affect the performance of the RM4000.

As you erect the mast, you should tape the cable bundle at regular intervals to prevent them from slapping against the mast in the wind. Electrical tape is provided in our tool kit for this purpose. Connect the two pin bayonet connector from the solar panel to the SP4000B battery box, and attach the cable harness for the radiomodem to both the battery box and the RM4000.

The radiomodem should now be functional, and it is a good time to give it a test, even without any of the weather equipment attached. One of the cables from the 14 pin bayonet connector ends in the "Telemetry Test Module". This box contains a tiny speaker, and a momentary push button. Before you press the button, listen carefully for the burst of radio static that should occur every 8 seconds. (This time may vary with some models). This static is heard because the radiomodem operates with

the squelch control turned off, and because it only checks for a data carrier intermittently to conserve power. If there are no bursts of static, read on. There is some limited troubleshooting you can still do in the field.

If there was no intermittent burst of static from the test module, then the most likely cause is a lack of power. If you have no voltmeter, remove the D cells from the weather recorder, if any have been installed yet, and then plug the solar panel's 2 pin screw connector into the external power connector to see if the weather recorder powers up. If not, recheck that you have cables coming out of both connectors on the SP4000B. If everything appears to be assembled correctly, the problem lies in one of the following areas, listed in order of probability:

- 1) Blown fuse in SP4000B
- 2) Discharged battery in SP4000B
- 3) Radio transceiver has squelch on(please leave squelch off)
- 4) Defective cables (check for rodent damage)
- 5) Defective RM4000 or radio transceiver

1.2 Using the Self Test Mode

If the bursts of static are identified, and the channel is clear, go ahead and press the button for about 8 seconds, or at least until a scratchy whistle is heard from inside the radiomodem. The sound you hear is the

radiomodem going through a rigorous self test. If you had a printer attached to the data output wire, it would print out a short test report for you. If the printer is not attached, it makes no real difference. Any failed test will cause the self test procedure to abort, and you will know that something is wrong with the controller board circuitry. At the end of the test results printout, the transceiver is switched to transmit, and a universal response header is sent out. This will sound like a clear high pitched whistle that lasts for about 10 seconds, followed by a brief chirp which represents the test header. You can hear this activity both from within the radiomodem itself, or on a portable transceiver tuned to the radiomodem's channel. All stations REVISED TO SOFT-WARE VERSION 1.3 or above, will respond with alternating tones. These tones can be heard on the test module's speaker.

If you don't hear any tones, then this remote location is not in radio contact with the base, or any other remote radiomodem. Check the channel the transceiver is on with a portable radio if you experience difficulty. This will at least tell you if the unit is transmitting. There is another potential confusing point here. Many systems operate with existing voice repeaters which require that the transceiver transmit and receive on slightly different frequencies. In such cases, the high radio field strength from the radiomodem will more

than likely interfere with a portable's reception of the repeater at close range. If possible, tune your radio to the REPEATER's receive frequency. If this is not possible, separate your radio from the radiomodem by 1/4 mile so that the interference is reduced to the point that you can hear the repeater.

There is another useful test that can be performed now if the base station is operating. Attach the 4 pin female data connector from the radiomodem to the male socket on the weather recorder. This cable contains the wire that commands the weather recorder to send the telemetry unit all its stored data. Attach the solar panel power connector to the external power input of the weather recorder. It is not necessary to connect any sensors. The remote site should now be capable of sending the data stored in the weather recorder to the base. Call up the base on your mobile and ask someone there to use the base computer to call the remote station. You will need to have entered the particulars of the station into the base computer in advance.

Now that the mast is completely erected, bundle the excess cable length and tie it to the mast, well above ground level. This will help keep the soft vinyl wiring out of the reach of rodents. Run the connectors into the Stevenson Screen by unscrewing the louvered section from the support stand, and slipping the cable bundle through

the notch provided at the back of the shelter. Use the color coding, or whatever means you chose to identify the 2 pin weather recorder power connector to connect the various cables. (See warning on page 7) Check the weather recorder for reasonable readings in the "00" mode. (consult WR62 manual if necessary) Note that you will have to wait 10 minutes before the weather recorder will display a valid wind speed, since it computes the 10 minute average.

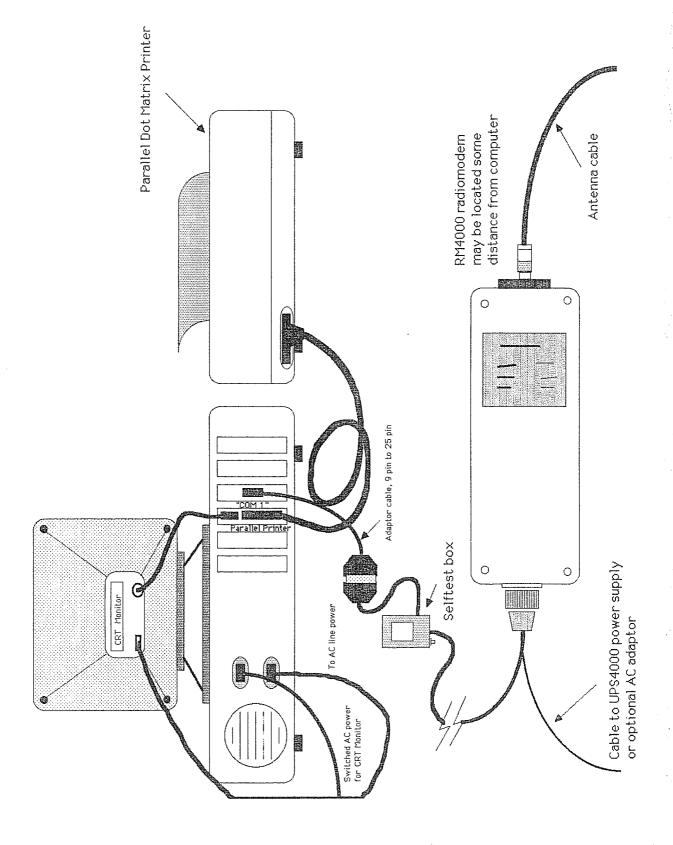
After the station has been completely assembled according to the instructions, either stake down the legs of the Stevenson Screen, or weight down the entire shelter to prevent it from being upset in high winds. As a final precaution, install a set of D cells in the weather recorder to provide backup for the SP4000B solar power supply in case a prolonged cloudy spell causes the main supply to go dead. This second set of batteries is never drained until the main SP4000B quits. The second set of batteries will preserve the weather recorder's operation until there is enough sunshine to make the SP4000B cut in again.

1.3 Base Station Installation

It is very difficult to produce a general description of how to set up the base station, because virtually every installation is different. Since most of the differences are in the connection to the radio equipment, some of the following information is quite technical. If this is not one of the rare installations where the base radio has been installed by FTS, you will need technical assistance to set up the radio equipment. The description will start with the straightforward part of the installation, which is common to all applications.

The base station comprises a controller - an unmodified dual disk drive IBM XT compatible personal computer, a dot matrix printer, and another radiomodem. Even though this radiomodem is called the base, it is identical to the ones installed in the remote sites, except for the radio interface. Here are some examples of base radiomodem configurations...

Unpack your "FTS XT", its companion printer and video monitor, each of which is provided with a cable. On the far left hand side of the computer, we will have installed an expansion card that has two connectors for these devices. Connect the monitor to the 9 pin female connector labelled "Video". Connect the printer to the 25 pin female connector labelled "Parallel/Printer". Finally, locate the short adaptor cable that was shipped with the computer which has a 9 pin female connector on one end and a 25 pin male connector on the other end. Plug this into the 9 pin connector labelled "RS232" on the back of the FTS XT. Connect the 25 pin female connector from the RM4000 cable harness to the dangling end of the adaptor cable. This completes the computer connections required for most installations.



Interfacing the RM4000 to Radio Systems

There are four basic ways in which RM4000 radiomodems have been used as base stations, and these will be
decribed in three sections, from most frequently
implemented to most obscure. The first is direct connection to a base radio transceiver with an antenna
system on the same building as the radiomodem. The second
is an indirect connection to a remote radio transceiver
via a leased two wire or four wire telephone circuit.
Finally, several base radiomodems have been installed in
conjunction with the dial up telephone system, which use
existing automatic radiotelephone services for the radio
link.

1.4 Connecting a RM4000 to an External Transceiver

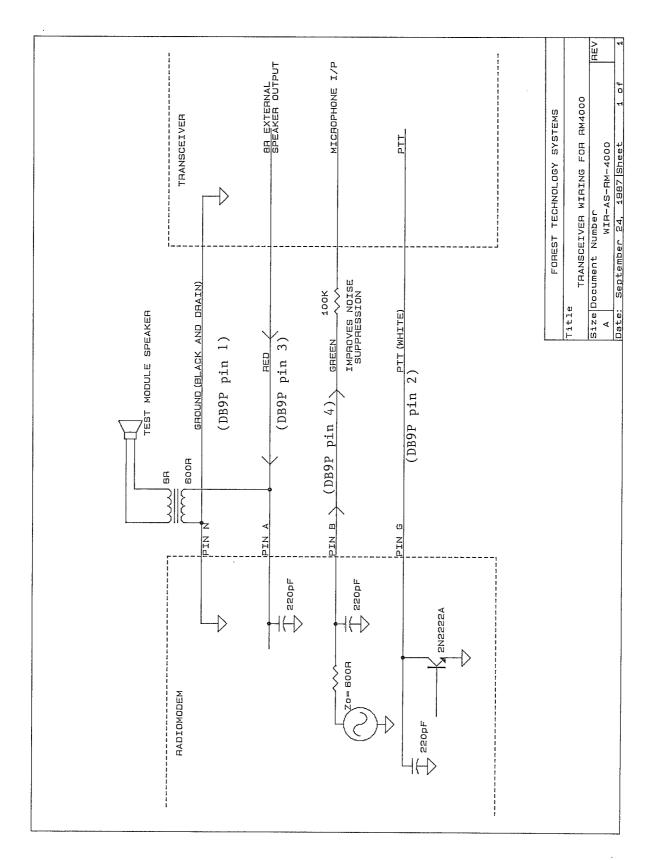
The RM4000 is equipped with a four wire radio interface that is directly compatible with the great majority of mobile transceivers. This provides audio output for transmit, a input line for receiver audio, and a open collector Push To Talk (PTT) line to control the mode of the transceiver. There is extensive overload protection on all lines except PTT. The PTT circuit should not be connected to any radio that requires more than 30 volts across the microphone switch contacts, nor should it be required to shunt currents greater than 500 mA to ground. If this is the case with your transceiver, then a relay can be installed to handle the extra power. A relay is

also helpful with those transceivers that employ a positive ground.

One of the advantages of this interface is that the standard 600 ohm input and output impedances allow the radiomodem to be bridged across an existing microphone circuit. Refer to the circuit diagram on the next page. Color codes refer to the standard cable for base stations which ends in a DB9P connector. The numbers in brackets are the pin numbers. Since the PTT line is normally a high impedance in the idle state, it will not affect the operation of the microphone button. The 100 K resistor in the microphone audio line not only reduces noise pickup and ground loop problems when it is installed near the transceiver, it also prevents the radiomodem from loading the microphone circuit. Finally the effective 300 ohm impedance from the RM4000 and its selftest box monitor is a negligible load on the transceiver output line.

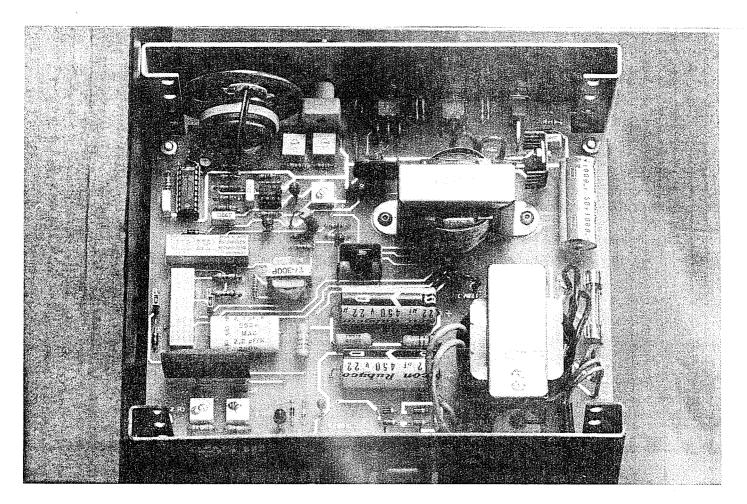
When the RM4000 is attached to the transceiver, its audio levels will have to be adjusted to achieve proper sensitivity and modulation. The RM4000 can produce audio over a range of -40 to -6 dBm in 600 ohms. The 100 K resistor at the microphone jack end of the cable serves to reduce this to the level required for 3 KHz of peak deviation in the transceiver. The fine adjustment is made by adjusting the trimmer potentiometer labelled "Audio O/P Deviation" (RV201).

When a radio data transfer is being received, RV202 is adjusted so there is no clipping on pin 14 of U216.



1.5 Connecting the RM4000 to a Remote Transceiver

Often, radio network base stations operate their transceivers by remote control over leased telephone lines so that the radio transceiver can be placedin a high spot for best coverage. Forest Technology Systems has designed a interface for one popular system, called the "Descon 2". The only difference in the RM4000 base radiomodem is that its cable is shipped pre-wired for direct connection to the CA4000 interface. The CA4000 acts exactly like a regular Descon 2 station, except that the microphone is interfaced to the RM4000.



Interior view of the CA4000 remote radio interface (Schematic on page 62)

1.6 Connecting the RM4000 to the Public Switched Telephone System

Because the RM4000 uses higher frequencies than standard telephone modems, 1200 baud operation through the public switched telephone network will not work reliably. If the RM4000 is to operate on telephones, it must be ordered so that it is set to 600 baud, and is equipped with a special interface called the TEL4000.

The RM4000 will be shipped with a special connector on the four wire external radio interface that plugs into the TEL4000. This gives the RM4000 control over the phone line when it is necessary to place a radio call. The TEL4000 also has two telephone jacks. A regular telephone is connected to one of the jacks, and a telephone extension cord is plugged into the other. When the RM4000 is not operating, the telephone can be used normally.

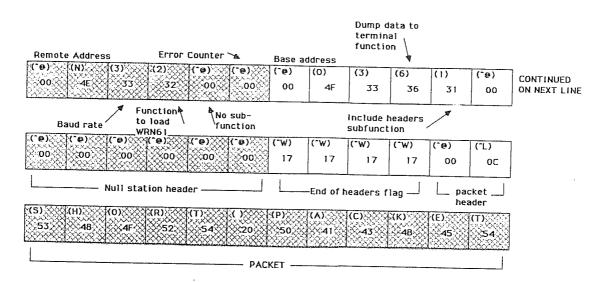
When the RM4000 is used, the telephone is used to place the call to the remote radio repeater, and once access to the repeater has been granted, the return key on the computer is used to tell the RM4000 to take over the phone line.

2.1 Introduction to FTS Packet Switching

Not all the software in the telemetry system is in the XT hub controller. Unlike most modems, or radiomodems for that matter, the RM4000 Packet Switched Radiomodem contains its own microprocessor which runs built - in ROM routines or special application programs that can be downloaded from the base station. This software, in fact, is the only truly distinguishable factor in this telemetry system.

This telemetry system usually operates in the "polled" mode. This means that data is only sent from the remote sites on request from a base station. In normal applications, an operator sends a long series of control characters to the base radiomodem from his base computer (often called the hub controller). In our system, these control characters form short, concise, headers for each radiomodem station the message will pass through (See Figure 2.1 below).

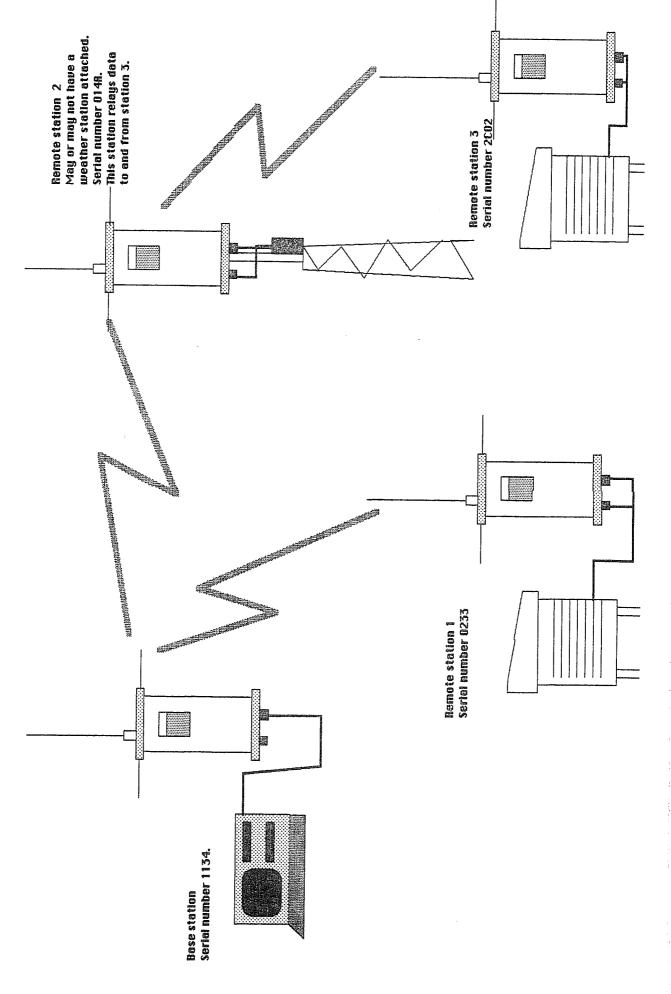
<u> Header Example -</u>



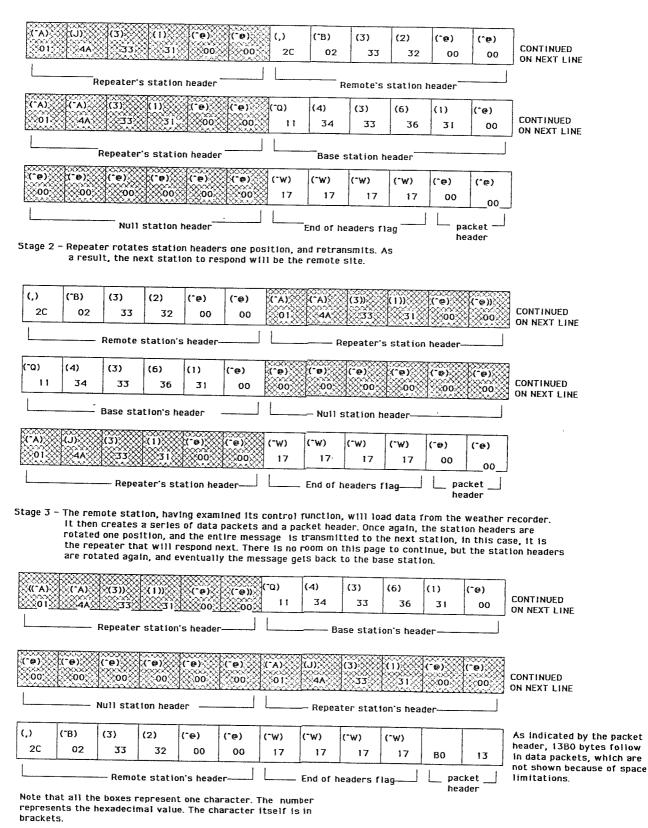
Note that all the boxes represent one character. The number represents the hexadecimal value. The character itself is in brackets.

Each station header starts with the address of the station to be accessed, followed by the baud rate to be used, followed by the task to be performed, followed by two variable codes to be explained later. At the end of the station headers is a null station header which prevents infinite loops, and a flag to delimit the station header code section. Finally there is a packet header, followed by packets of data or programs, or whatever information is to be sent through the network. At the very end of the header is a checksum which the telemetry system uses to identify flawed data. This checksum is generated by the radiomodem itself, and never appears in data sent to or from the controller.

To understand exactly how several stations can operate on one channel without interfering with each other, the headers must be examined more closely. It is the base computer's job to place the station headers in the proper order for the transmission to take place. Consider a base station surrounded by 3 remote radiomodems (Figure 2.2). One is in direct radio range of the base, while another is only in range when propagation is good. To reach it reliably, the message has to be relayed though a "repeater".



Stage 1 - User's computer sends the base telemetry unit the header with routing information and commands.



Referring to the diagrams in the Figure 2.3 let's get a printout of the data from remote station 3 via remote station 2. First the base sends out all the station headers in precise order, with the first station to be accessed (station 2) first in line. At the end of the station headers is a flag composed of four "end transmission block" ASCII control characters which tells the base radiomodem to expect the packet header next. Since the base station is not sending a packet of data to the remote station, the packet header is set to zero characters.

When station 2 receives the long 10 second wake up tone that preceeds the headers when the base station transmits, it locks onto the tone and decodes the first two characters of the first station header. It compares the value to its own address and begins to input the rest of the station headers. Station 1 will have also locked onto the tone, but when it decoded the first two characters, they will not have matched its internal address, and it will have started strobing again, looking for the next 10 second tone.

Station 2 then inputs all the station headers, the flag, and finally the packet header. Since the packet header indicated 0000 bytes to follow, it stops the input mode, and searches the function field in its own header to find out what it has been told to do. In this case,

the 31 is the code to become a repeater, so it rotates the headers one header length to the left and repeats the headers. After the rotation of the headers, the station header for station 3 becomes first, and station 2 becomes last.

Station 3 locks onto the tone from station 2, and after decoding its address, inputs the headers in the same way as station 2 did. This time, the function field tells it to load data from the attached weather station, and transmit it to the next station. The data is loaded, a packet header is calculated, the headers are rotated one position to the left, and it relays the data to station 2.

Station 2 inputs all the headers, but when it comes to the packet header, it begins waiting for 13B0 bytes to follow. Once it has received all these, it performs a check on the data to see if any uncorrectible errors have occurred, and follows the repeater function in its function field. The data is then relayed to the base.

The base station inputs all the headers and the data, but when it searches its function field, it finds that it is to dump the data to the computer. Furthermore, its function field also contains a subfunction code which tells it to include the headers in the data being sent to the computer, and to use a baud rate of 1200 bits per second. When this is done, the data has been transferred,

and all stations are back to the receive mode.

2.2 RS232C Hardware Handshake

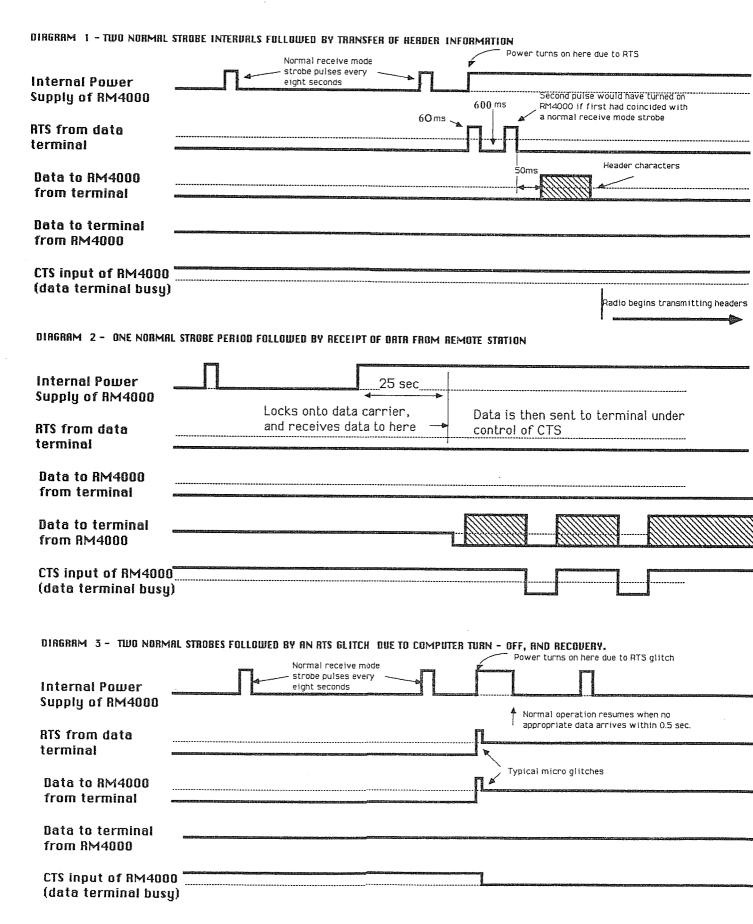
The previous discussion of how the radiomodem relays messages was simplified. If you intend to write software that is compatible with the radiomodem, then there are some aspects you must be aware of. First, since all radiomodems are hardware and software identical, even the base radiomodem spends most of its time powered down. It "wakes up" every 8 seconds to see if there is a radio call being made to it, but otherwise it is turned off. Therefore, before you can send it a group of headers to get it to do something for you, you must first get its attention. This is done using the "request to send" hardware handshaking line on the RS232c port of your terminal (computer).

The inactive voltage level of RTS (request to send) is -5 to - 25 Volts. When this line is active, it becomes positive, and causes the radiomodem to power up. The radiomodem is capable of sensing that the power up was due to RTS, and will expect data to be sent to it within 1/2 second, at 1200 baud. If no data is sent, it powers down and resumes "strobing". Also - RTS is only edge sensitive, therefore, you should reset RTS after you have accomplished the wake - up. It has no other handshaking function in the radiomodem. Finally, there is a 2% chance that the radiomodem will be busy checking the radio when

you initiate the RTS pulse, which means that RTS and all your data will be ignored. However, since RTS is only edge sensitive, and is latched, you may assert RTS twice before sending data and thereby get the radiomodem's attention in spite of a radio check coincidence. Follow the timing chart on the timing diagram (Figure 2.4).

The only other handshaking line implemented on the radiomodem is the clear to send from the computer. If this is not active, the radiomodem will not send any data. This is marginally useful for computers which cannot accept data at high rates. Note that if a large amount of data is being transferred, there is only just enough time to receive, decode and transmit the data at 1200 baud before the hardware timeout resets the radiomodem. Therefore, if you hooked up the radiomodem to a 15 character per second printer, you cannot expect to get a full printout before the timeout occurs.

DETRILED TIMING DIRGRAM



If you choose to have the radiomodem dump the headers to the computer as well as the data, you can retrieve information about the signal quality from the headers. The radiomodem uses an error correcting scheme to eliminate errors in transmission over the radio. For each radio link, the number of errors corrected is totalled and placed in the error counter in the 6th byte of the receiving station's header. Therefore, if a radio link is becoming marginal, you will notice that the error counter is not zero before the link fails.

The packet switching protocol software provides protection from some omissions in the header. If the command field is left out or contains an invalid function, the radiomodem defaults to being a repeater. If the null header is missing, it is automatically reinserted. If the packet header is missing, it defaults to zero, and is reinserted.

If an uncorrectible error occurs during any radio link, the radiomodem that encounters the error will abort the data, and simply send a message through the RS232c output port reading: "Checksum error in received data, try again." This message is preceded by the standard pattern of 6 nulls, then a tilda ("~").

The number of repeaters permitted is up to 128, but you must realize that the time to receive data increases with the number of repeaters that you chain together, and

the amount of memory free for transferring data decreases at the rate of 12 bytes per station header. Please note that the type of repeater being referred to is a store - and - forward repeater, not an existing duplex analog repeater. When chaining repeaters together, it is not necessary to follow the same path back from the remote site as it took to send the commands to the remote site. Since all radiomodems are identical, any radiomodem may be used as a repeater - even base stations.

2.3 Other Features of RM4000 Software

This is one of the first packet switched data communications devices to use advanced error correction techniques to provide resistance to noise and static. Certainly, this makes it unique among normal narrowband radio equipment. Our units can correct up to 3 one bit errors in any two characters worth of transmitted data. The actual error correction theory is the same as was used to send back the video from the mariner space probes, which share many of the same communications problems we were faced with - low power, noise, and low duty cycle. This technique is part of the protocol conversion from ordinary asynchronous ASCII that is universal in usage to our particular synchronous packet switched encoded radio protocol. This protocol is specially tailored for:

- a) Low power, low data rate applications
- b) Narrowband voice type radio channels with noise
- c) Half Duplex, polled operation

In addition to the error correction, there is error checking. It is not acceptable for any errors to be passed by the telemetry system, but it is possible for more than three errors to occur in two bytes in bad conditions. Whenever data is being handled, therefore, all the data bytes are added together, and the resulting sum is placed at the end of the packets before they are encoded with the 32 X 16 error correction matrix. This checksum is encoded together with the data, and is decoded at the receiving end. An independent sum is calculated at the receiver using the decoded data, and compared to the decoded checksum that was generated at the transmitter. If the two do not match, the data is assumed to be flawed, and aborted. A message reading "CHECKSUM ERROR IN RECEIVED DATA - TRY AGAIN" is sent down the serial lines of whatever radiomodem the error is detected at the default baud rate, but the transmitter cannot be activated after a flaw has been detected.

Direct Connection to Serial Printers

Version 1.4 of the radiomodem software was the first to allow direct connection to 1200 baud serial printers. The station headers referred to in the previous sections are stored in the EPROM (Erasable, Programmable, Read Only Memory) inside the radiomodem. There is a small two pin jumper on the controller circuit board which tells the radiomodem whether to operate normally or in the

"Autocall" mode (See figure 2.5). When the jumper is installed, the following sequence will occur every time the printer is turned on:

1) When the printer is turned on, the RS232c handshaking line called RTS (pin 4) or DSR (pin 6) goes positive. This causes the power supply in the radiomodem to turn on and puts the controller in the "terminal handling" mode.

2) The controller board in the radiomodem then "reads" the Autocall jumper, and finding it to be active, loads into the transmit buffer memory the header which was stored in EPROM at location \$1F00. This header is identical in construction to those in the previous section, except that it has an ASCII "D" in the function field of the base station header.

3) When the "D" function is executed, the raw binary data from the weather station is titled, converted to standard units, and formatted for printing. Handshaking with the printer is done through the standard "External Ready" handshaking line (pin 20). If the printer can achieve at least 30 characters per second, all data can be printed before the hardware timeout occurs. Slower printers will print out only a part of the data.

Forest Technology Systems can produce a custom header in the ROM of any length on request. Normally,

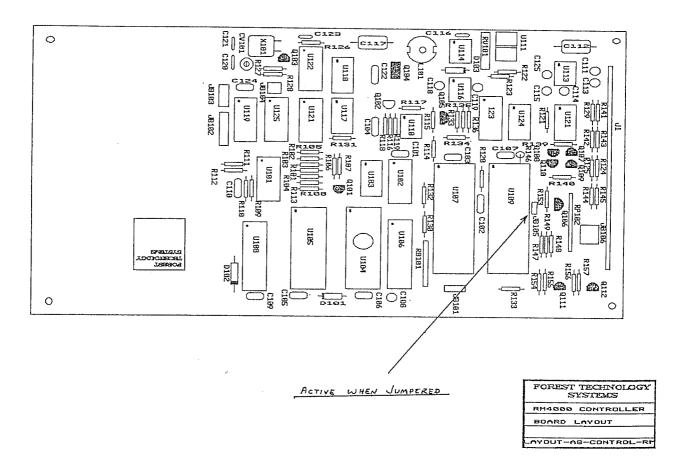


Figure 2.5 - Autocall jumper

units are shipped with the EPROM default value in the locations above \$1F00, which is \$FF. If you have the equipment for "burning in" 2764 EPROMS, you can make a copy of the ROM in your unit and add a custom Autocall header of your own design. The rules in the previous sections apply, but add a "\$" (Hexadecimal 24) to the end of the header. This tells the program that it has reached the end of the custom header. A sample header follows on the next page...

Sample Header:

Location	Data	Comments
1F04 1F05 	00 4F 33 44 00	NO APPLICABLE SUBFUNCTION INITIALLY SET THE ERROR COUNT TO ZERO
1F0C 1F0D 1F0E 1F0F 1F10 1F11	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	ASE STATION HEADERNULL STATION HEADER
1F12 1F13 1F14 1F15 1F16 1F17	17 17 17 17 00	ULL STATION HEADER END TRANSMISSION BLOCK CHARACTER SET PACKET HEADER TO #BYTES = 0
1F18	END OF F: 24	LAG AND PACKET HEADER END OF HEADERS CHARACTER (\$)

This header contained no repeaters, but if required, they could be added to a depth of five or six. The biggest disadvantage to the Autocall approach to radiomodems is that the radiomodems can only call one station, and extensive networking is not possible.

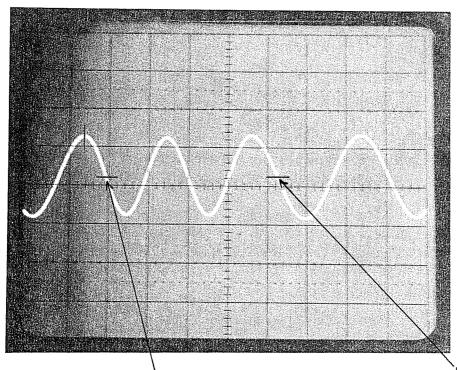
2.4 COMMAND LIBRARY - Version 3.0

Function	Subfuncti	on Description
31н	NT / 7A	
32H	N/A	Repeater Function
32n 33H	N/A	Load all available data from WR62 and send it back
	N/A	transfer the program in the packets to RAM, beginning at the address in the first two bytes, and run it.
36H	31H	Send the returned header and packets at 1200 Baud
36H	32H	Send the returned header and packets at 2400 Baud
36Н	33H	Send the packets only at 1200 Baud
36H	34H	Send the packets only at 2400 Baud
37H	N/A	Load and return the first 160 data points from a CR21
38Н	N/A	Load and return the second 160 data points from a CR21
39Н	N/A	Load and return the third 160 data points from a CR21
41H	N/A	Load and return the fourth 160 data points from a CR21
42H	N/A	Transfer and return data from and Aanderra recorder
43H	N/A	Clear the battery backed RAM, if installed
44H	N/A	Assume the packets contain FTS weather data, decode
1		it, title it, and print daily and hourly readings
45H	N/A	Load only the most recent 24 hours of WR62 data, and
	,	send it back. (can work directly with serial printers)
46H	N/A	Set the clock in a CR21X to new time, or read clock
47H	' 1	Return CR21X data in ASCII format
48H	. ,	Return CR21X data in binary format
49H		Download new programming to CR21X
50н		Assume the packets contain FTS weather data, decode
		it, title it, and print only the last 24 hours
51H	N/A	Change protocol to "BC QUICKCALL" conventions
58H	N/A	Return the Version and Revision of internal software.
1	, ,	the first on and hevision of internal software.

RM4000 HARDWARE

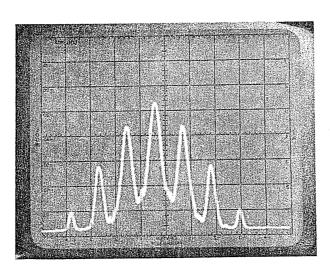
3.1 Theory of Operation

The RM4000 is a FSK (Frequency Shift Keyed) modem that can operate up to 1200 bits per second. The frequency that represents a "one" is 2400 Hz and the frequency that represents a "zero" is 1800 Hz. If the RM4000 has been configured to operate at 600 Baud, the frequencies are exactly divided by two. To eliminate jitter, a bit synchronous format is used, where a "one" takes two cycles (720 degrees) and a zero takes 1.5 cycles (540 degrees). That means frequency changes always occur at the same phase points.



START OF 2 CYCLES OF 2400 Hz REPRESENTING A "MARK" OR DIGITAL "1" BEGINNING OF 1800 Hz V2 CYCLES OF 1800 Hz
REPRESENTIN A "SPACE"
OR DIGITAL Ø

When the RM4000 is operated at its full data rate, it occupies a section of the audio spectrum between 1400 and 2700 Hz. This is above the DTMF (Dual Tone Multi Frequency) band and subaudio control tones, and below some of the high frequency control tones used in repeater networks. Assuming that the maximum bandwidth coincides with the maximum data rate, the bandwidth may be estimated by assuming a bit stream composed of alternating ones and zeros. This forms a standard FM carrier at the geometric mean of 2400 and 1800 Hz, or 2080 Hz. Since the bit stream is actually a squarewave of 600 Hz, sidebands are produced around this carrier at ± 600 Hz. Real data has significant sidebands within this 1200 Hz bandwidth.



Spectrum Analyzer Photo. Center frequency 2080 Hz, 500 Hz / division

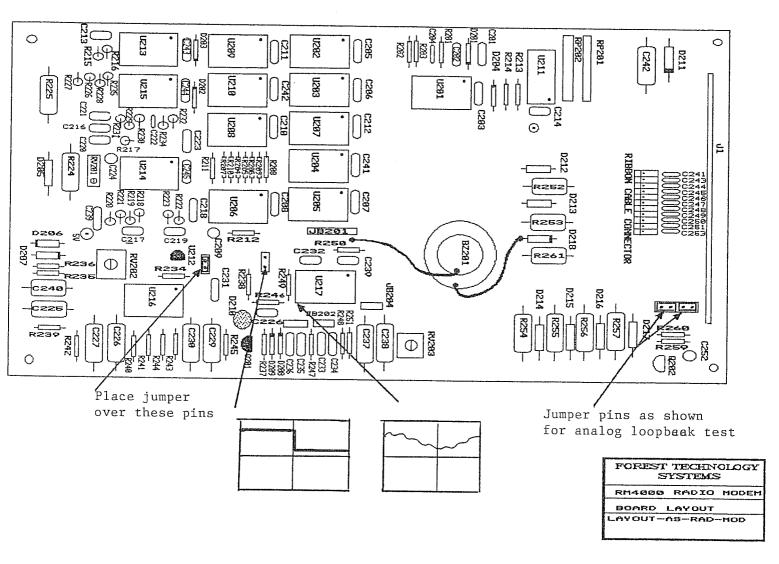
Figure 3.2

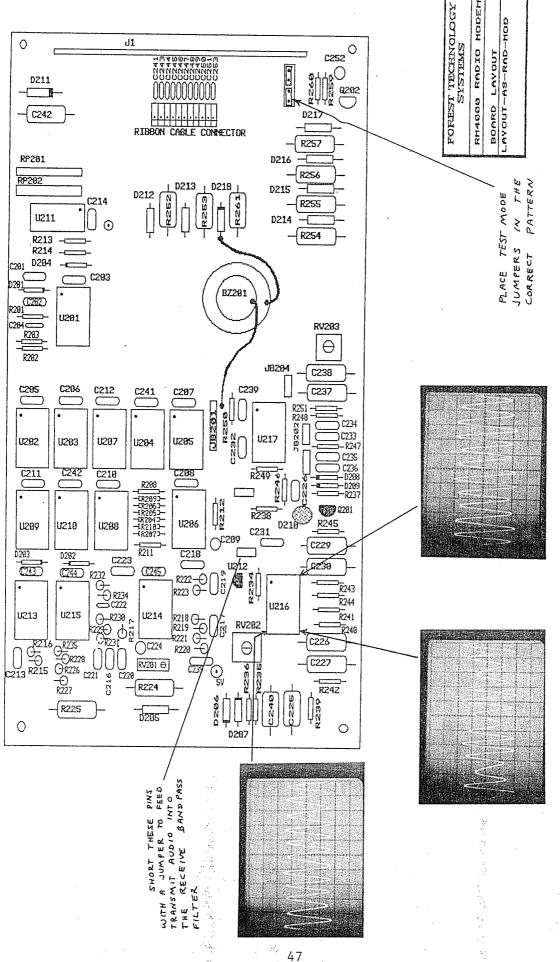
Each sideband contains information about 1's <u>and</u> 0's in the modulation. So does the carrier. In audio terms, the 3 dB bandwidth is about 1200 Hz, but in radio terms,

where occupied bandwidth is defined by the 26 dB bandwidth, it is nearer 17 KHz, at 5KHz FM deviation. This deviation is excessive, since many borderline transmitters will introduce considerable distortion due to the limiting action they are required by law to apply to overdriven inputs. At Forest Technology Systems, we normally set the deviation to 3KHz peak deviation, which is a good compromise. The important design consideration is that regardless of the deviation, the occupied bandwidth is within legal limits. For your information, the type of emission is designated as 16K0F2DCN on DOC license applications.

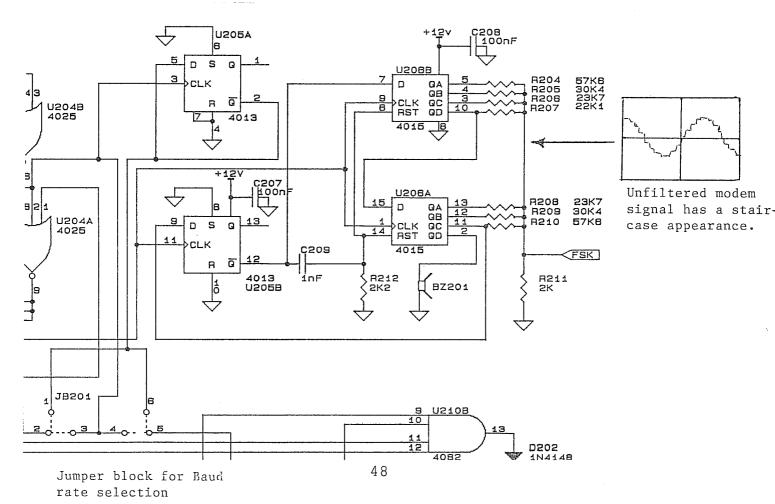
The information density as far as the modem is concerned lies between 1400 and 2700 Hz in the voice channel. To increase the signal to noise ratio, a bandpass filter is used to isolate this data subchannel from the ever present noise in the rest of the audio channel. Note that we have set the energy density ABOVE the DTMF tone matrix frequencies and the subaudio control tones which are usually used in commercial two way radio service. This will help these systems tolerate the relatively high modulation level we place on the carrier. Some repeater systems are tone controlled by bursts of high frequency tones. These systems are more of a problem, and we have got around this by issuing the PTT signal 250 ms before we begin modulating the carrier so that the control tones can get through.

The receive bandpass filter is centered on the geometric mean of the two most significant sidebands in the audio spectrum. The filter is 6th order and was designed to have maximum 1 dB ripple in the passband. You should be able to observe the following waveforms when the RM4000 is put in the "transmit test mode", and the output of the modem is tied to the input. This is called the "local analog loopback test".

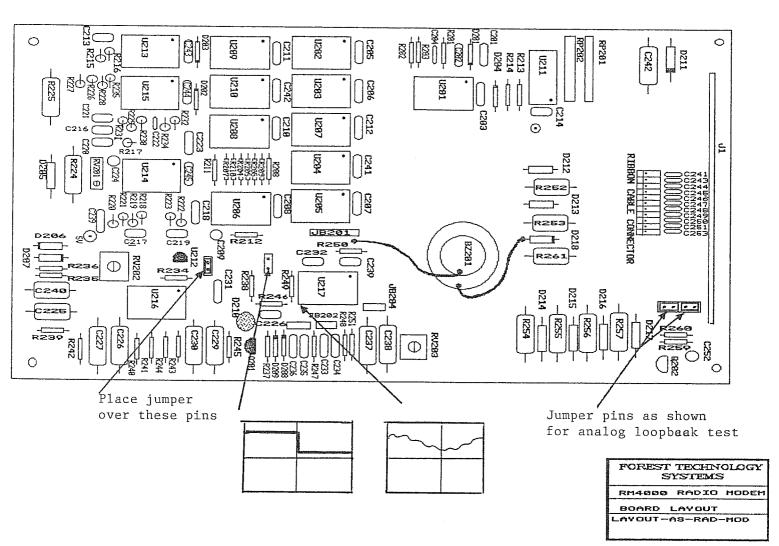




The transmitter section of the modem starts with a phase locked frequency tripler (U201 and U202) coupled to a divide by 3 or divide by 4 digital counter (U203, U204, and U207), which divides down the CPU clock to 38400 Hz and 28800 Hz as the serial data output of the CPU changes from 1 to 0. A jumper block allows this signal to be further divided by two (U205A) to easily convert the RM4000 to 600 Baud. From the jumper block, the signal is converted to a sine wave with a shift register and summing resistor network (U206 and R204 - 210). The final output frequency is 1/16 th of the 38400/28800 Hz driving squarewave, or 2400 Hz and 1800 Hz. A smoothing filter, (U214) is used to eliminate higher order harmonics from the final signal.



After the signal has passed through the receive bandpass filter, it is demodulated by a single chip PLL (Phase Locked Loop). The XR2211 contains three separate blocks, an input amplifier / limiter, a PLL, and a data level comparator. The single adjustment, RV203, sets the center frequency of the internal VCO, and is used to set the duty cycle of the data output test point to 50 % when the RM4000 is in the local analog loopback test mode. You should be able to observe the following waveforms:



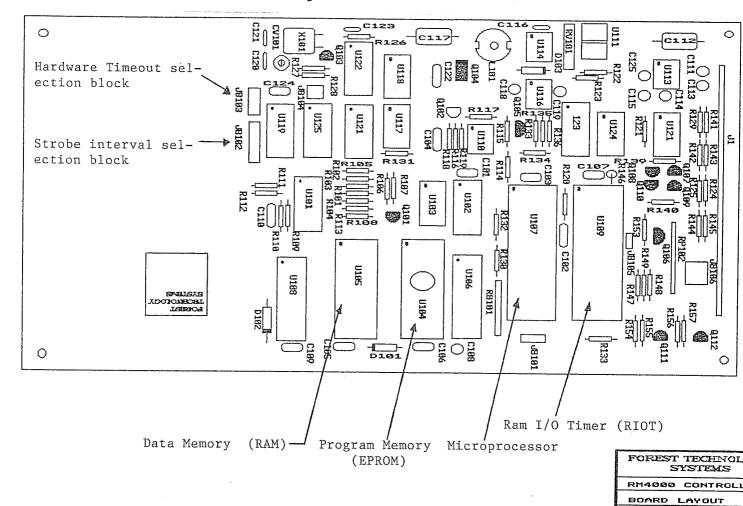
The RM4000 also has the decoder part of a CVSD CODEC which is used to generate DTMF tones, signalling tones, and voice station identification. CVSD CODEC is an abbreviation for "Continuously Variable Slope Delta modulated COder - DECcoder". This is simply a device for converting analog signals to a binary data stream and vice versa in the most efficient way. The CVSD decoder on the RM4000 only converts stored digital data to analog levels, and provides two digitizing rates - 19200 bits per second and 38400 bits per second. The higher rate provides excellent quality speech and DTMF signalling, while the lower rate is only suited to speech.

The CVSD hardware includes a four bit shift register used as a digital compander (U208, U209, and U210), a companding level integrator (R215 and C213), a slope switch (U215B and U213D), an approximating integrator (U215C) and finally, an output smoothing filter (U215D). Unfortunately, there is no simple self test procedure to exercise this hardware for troubleshooting purposes.

If the CVSD hardware is used at all, prior arrangements have to be made with FTS to have the EPROM on the controller board custom programmed for CVSD output, since this requires the use of a CVSD encoder and special EPROM programmer.

3.2 CONTROLLER BOARD DESCRIPTION

The controller board of the RM4000 is located underneath the modem board discussed in the previous section. It holds the power supply sections and all the digital circuitry. Referring to the block diagram below, the central component is the microcontroller block which contains the 80C85 microprocessor, 81C55 RIOT (Ram/Input-Output/Timer), 27C256 program EPROM, and the 4464 RAM. It controls all the functions of the RM4000 whenever it receives a "strobe on" signal from the Timer block.



YOUT-AS-CONTRO

The Timer block is a logical place to start the description of the controller board. It runs continuously from the 5 Volt switchmode power supply (U114). The reference for the Timer block is a 6.144 MHz crystal oscillator (Q103). Its output drives the 80C85 microprocessor through a NOR gate (U118A) whenever the microprocessor section is powered up. It also is fed to a divide by 10 counter (U122) and a 14 stage binary counter. The 38.4 KHz tap on this binary counter (U119) is sent to the modem board as the reference for the modem tones (interboard connector pin 5). It is also buffered and provided to the external connector as a reference frequency for the weather station's serial data port.(Interboard connector pin 27).

After the 6.144 MHz signal has passed through both U122 and U119, it has been divided down to 37.500 Hz. This frequency is sent to both U120 and U119. U120 is a 14 stage binary counter that functions as a RTC (Real Time Clock). Although its "Ticks" are 109.2267 seconds long, there is a software routine in the EPROM that converts the time to the nearest minute. The clock is "read" when the RIOT is instructed to input the data on pins 1,2, and 3 of U120 every time the microprocessor is powered up by a "strobe on" command.

The "strobe on" commands themselves are generated by Ull9. Six jumper (JB101) selectable taps on this 14 stage binary counter allow you to choose a strobe

interval of 0.2133 sec, 0.4267 sec, 0.8533 sec, 1.707 3.413 sec, or 6.827 sec. Position A is for the shortest time, and position F is the longest. RM4000 radiomodems are usually set to a 6.827 second strobe interval. When combined with the proper high speed compatible EPROM, choosing a shorter strobe interval allows faster polling of the radiomodems. The tradeoff is average idle power consumption, which increases dramatically at short strobe interval selections. The "strobe on" signal is sent to a flip flop (Ull7A) that simply turns on a FET switch (Ql04). This applies power to the microprocessor block which will then begin to run its program. Normally, when the program is finished running, it will instruct the RIOT to set pin 5 of Ull8B high, which then resets the microprocessor power supply by clearing the flip flop. This could be considered a "strobe off" signal.

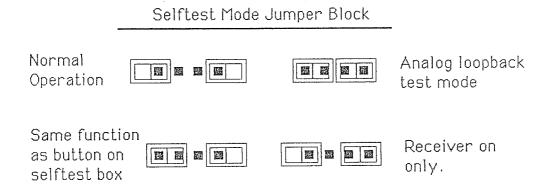
There is another possible way of generating strobe on signals. If the "RTS input" pin on the external connector is brought high, Ull7B will sense the rising edge and turn on Q104 in the same manner as if Ull9 had been the source of the "strobe on" signal. The microprocessor senses the difference by instructing the RIOT to read the state of pin 9 of Ull7B. If this signal is found to be high, it means that an external device is trying to gain the attention of the RM4000.

There is also another way of generating "strobe off" signals. There is a second jumper block (JB103) attached to U119 that has three "timeout" positions. This defines the maximum amount of time that any program can run before the hardware "times out" and shuts down the microprocessor power supply. This is a safety feature in case the software instuctions ever get missequenced and the microprocessor block latches up. Because of the nature of RM4000 operation, there is never a case where the software needs to be run continuously. The timeout periods are 109.2 sec, 218.5 sec, and 436.9 sec. As in the case of the strobe interval jumper block, position A is the shortest interval, and B and C provide the longer times.

As mentioned in the Timer description, the microprocessor section only operates intermittently, to conserve power. When power is applied, the buffered clock signal is sent to the external clock input of the 80C85 microprocessor. This is done to make the 80C85 start faster and more reliably than if it used its own independent clock crystal. Because of this feature, the restart timing components (R120 and C102) are designed to start the microprocessor executing its program in only 1 millisecond after the power is applied.

The program that directs the operation of the ${\tt RM4000}$ starts by setting the programmable RIOT to the correct frequency and settings, so that the default Baud

rate is set to 1200 Baud. Next, it checks for the condition of the self - test jumper block. This jumper block has two sense pins, and four possible selections:



After checking for test mode conditions, the

microprocessor then turns on the 12 Volt regulator, which applies power to the modem board and the internal radio transceiver. The microprocessor then waits for a short period of time for the transceiver to warm up and stabilize on the radio channel, and begins to check the received audio for a data carrier. The exact timing depends on the transceiver and the custom programmed EPROM that is matched to that brand of transceiver. Some synthesized transceivers actually take a couple of seconds to stabilize, while the more conventional crystal controlled units usually stabilize within a fraction of a second. External radios are assumed to run continuously, and may have a warm up time of zero. The data carrier sensing is done by examining the output of the data demodulator (interboard connector pin 13). If there is voice or simply static coming from the transceiver, then

this output will be switching states randomly. If there is a data carrier that is good enough for reception, then 90% or more of the bits will be "ones", and the program will proceed to examine the station headers. Otherwise, it issues a "strobe off" command to the Timer section, and the RM4000 resumes it low current idle state.

This data carrier sensing technique requires that the transceiver's squelch control is set to OFF. If the squelch is left on, there may not be enough audio output to make the modem's data demodulator operate when there is no signal present, and therefore the microprocessor will waste time and power trying to decode non - existent headers. The static from an unsquelched radio will actually reduce average current drain.

The hardware in the microprocessor section is quite simple. The 80C85 is capable of addressing 64K of memory, and 256 I/O ports. Our system makes use of 6 I/O ports and all 64 K of the memory space. The memory map is divided into 4 pieces as follows:

Memory Address	1/O Address	Devices Represented	Detailed Description
0000 Н	AVA	27C256 standard EPROM or 27C64 Optional	Holds programs (Firmware) and
7FFF H		or gree-reperonal	digitized audio
8000 H	N/A	uPd 4464 -15 RAM	Battery backed data memory and
9FFF H			cłock registers
A000 H	N/A	Optional DAC1008LCN	Not installed in
BFFF H		10 bit D-A Converter	the RM4000
C000 H	CO to C5	81C55A Ram/I/O/Timer	256 bytes of non- battery backed Ram for stack, arithmetic and control registers.
FFFF H			Also holds 1/0 ports.

The largest RAM chip is battery backed. That means that power is maintained to it even when the rest of the

microprocessor is turned off in order to preserve its contents. This is a necessary feature for remotely downloaded programs and to keep track of real time. The RAM must be protected from inadvertent write commands as the microprocessor is powered down. This done using the secondary RAM chip select, pin 28 on Ul05. When the power supply of the microprocessor fails after a "strobe off" command, and reaches the 88% of the normal level, Ul01D turns ON Ql01, which deactivates Ul05. Ul05 is then protected from inadvertent writes, and all its address and data lines become tri-stated so that there is no conflict with the rest of the microprocessor section which is powered down.

The I/O map is laid out on the diagram on the next page. Note that all the pin numbers for the I/O functions refer to the RIOT (Ram Input -Output Timer) chip, Ul09. The 80C85 also equipped with its own serial I/O channel, labelled SID (Serial Input Data) and SOD (Serail Output Data). It is not addressed as an I/O device, but is acessed with a special software instruction.

The SID line is multiplexed with U124 so that data can be selected from either the output of the modem board's data demodulator (interboard connector pin 13), or the data output of the external device (external connector pin I). If the data from the external device is selected, the RIOT is instructed to place a "one" on pin 6 of U124B and data is then allowed to flow from external

connector pin I to the SID terminal. This also turns OFF Q105, which allows data from the 80C85 SOD pin to flow through U123 to the external connector pin D. Usually, when the microprocessor is "talking" to the external device, it also intructs the RIOT to place a "one" on the RTS line (external connector pin E), to signal the external device that it now ready for data.

If the microprocessor is "talking" to the modem board, it will usually place a zero (inactive) level on the RTS line (external connector pin E) and place a "one" on pin 8 of Ul24C. The inactive RTS signal tells the external device that the RM4000 is no longer able to accept data, and data is received from the modem board instead. Of course, the RIOT also places a "zero" on pin 6 of Ul24B to prevent interference from the external device. Output data from the SOD pin is always sent to the modem board whether it is meant for the modem or not.

The microprocessor section also has some other minor functions. There is a multiplexer on the modem board that provides audio levels to the output driver. The RIOT can select no input, causing the transceiver to produce a simple carrier (interboard connector pins 8 and 9 grounded), or modem tones (pin 8 high, pin 9 low), or CVSD synthesized audio (pin 8 low, pin 9 high). The circuit diagrams also show a simple Analog to Digital converter (Ullo) and a 10 bit Digital to Analog converter

(U108). These sections are never installed on RM4000 controller boards, and are provided so that the board can be used in one of our other products.

The only other section on the controller board is the regulated 12 Volt power supply. This uses a special low drop - out regulator, U111. It will provide proper regulation with battery voltages right down to 12.5 Volts. It can be placed in the OFF position by the RIOT applying a "zero" to the input of U121C. When this is done, the LM2931T consumes only 80 microamps.

	I CODE CHART: decimal Value	Name	Description
0 0	or ^@**	NUL	An all zero character used for synchronization or as a filler
01	or ^A	SOH	Start of Heading - Used before a control segment ahead of data
02	or ÎB	STX	Start of Text - Indicates text will follow
03	or ^c	ETX	End of Text
0.4	or ÎD	EOT	End of Transmission
05	or ĈE	ENQ	Enquiry - Request for response often sent at the end of polling
06	or ÎF	ACK	Acknowledge
07	or ĈG	BEL	Rings the terminal's bell
8 0	or ÎH	BS	Backspace code
09	or ÎI	${ t HT}$	Horizontal tab
0 A	or ÎJ	${ t LF}$	Line feed
0B	or îĸ	$ abla \mathbf{T}$	Vertical tab
0 C	or îL	FF	Form Feed
0D 0E	or îm or în	CR	Carriage return
UE	or în	SO	Shift Out - Means that all succes-
			sive characters may be interpreted
			outside normal meanings until an
0 F	or ^ 0	SI	SI is received
10	or ^P	DLE	Shift In - see SO
0	0 2 1	חחה	Data Link Escape - Used to change the meaning of at least one of the
			following characters or controls
11	or ^Q	DCl	Device control 1
12	or ^R	DC2	Device control 2
13	or Îs	DC3	Device control 3
14	or ÎT	DC4	Device control 4
15	or ÎU	NAK	Negative acknowledgement
16	or ÎV	SYN	Synchronous idle - Used to ident- ify a synchronizing bit sequence.
17	or ^W	ETB	End Transmission Block - Used by
	e de la companya de l		the radiomodem to identify the end
	_		of the transmission header
18	or ^X	CAN	Cancel - Ignore the previous block
19	or Îy	EM	End of medium - ie: disk full
lA	or ÎZ	SUB	Substitute - to replace invalid
מו	^ r	500	characters
lB	or [ESC	Escape - modifies the meaning of the folowing characters to extend
	_		the control character set
lC	or ^\	FS	File Separator
lD	or î]	GS	Group Separator
l E	or î	RS	Record Separator for file ops
lF	or 2	US	Unit Separator

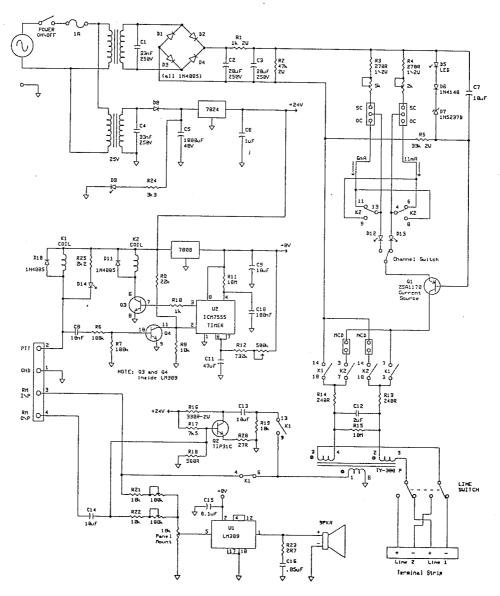
Appendix l

20	Space	40	@	6	0
21	!	41	A		l a
22	11	42	В		2 b
23	# \$ %	43	C	6	3 c
24	\$	44	D		4 d
25		45	E		5 e
26	&	46	F	6	6 f
27		47	G	6	
28	(48	H	6	
29)	49	I	6	
2 A	*	4 A	J	6	
2B	+	4B	K	6	в k̄
2C	,	4 C	L	6	
2D	_	4 D	M	6.	
2 E	•	4 E	N	6	
2 F	/	4 F	. 0	6	
30	0	50	P	7	
31	1	51	Q	7	l q
32	1 2 3 4	52	R	7	2 r
33	3	53	S	7	
34	4	54	${f T}$	7	4 t
35	5	55	U	7	
36	6	56	V	7	6 v
37	7	57	M	7	
38	8	58	X	7	8 x
39	9	59	Y	7:	
3A	•	5A	Z	7.7	
3B	;	5B	[7:	
3C	<	5 C	/	70	
3D	=	5D	Ĭ	71	
3E	>	5 E		71	
3F	?	5 F		7:	F Delete

ADAPTING THE RADIOMODEM TO REMOTE RADIO EQUIPMENT:

This circuit diagram is an example of how the radiomodem was adapted for use with a "DESCON 2" remote radio console which operated a 2 channel base station through a two wire telephone twisted pair. The channel was selected by the current sent down the twisted pair, and the audio was superimposed on the DC current.

CA 4000B



Appendix 3

PIN - OUT OF THE RADIOMODEM

PIN	Α	-	Audio	input	to	the	radiomodem	(-30	to	+10	dBm	600
ohms)												

- PIN B Audio output from radiomodem (-40 to +1 dBm 600 ohms)
- PIN C RTS (request to send) pseudo RS232 input (TTL OK)
- PIN D Transmitted data from radiomodem (RS232 output)
- PIN E RTS O.C. output and/or DSR (data set ready)
- PIN F Testmode sense pin for "Telemetry Test Module"
- PIN G PTT line to transceiver. This line is connected to a 2N2222A NPN transistor collector and is a high impedance in the receive mode, and able to sink up to 500 mA in the transmit mode. Standoff is +30 y
- PIN H CTS (clear to send) input from terminal
- PIN I Data input to radiomodem (pseudo RS232)
- PIN J Timer / Clock output TTL level
- PIN K 13.8V battery input to the radiomodem
- PIN L Ground, signal and chassis
- PIN M Ground, signal and chassis
- PIN N Ground, signal and chassis

Weather recorder 4 pin telemetry/printer interface socket:

- Pin A TTL level clock input at 16X the data rate
- Pin B RTS input
- Pin C Data output (TTL)
- Pin D Ground, signal

COLOR CODE CONVENTIONS:

Power cables: Black and drain wire, if present = GROUND White or clear = +13.8V fused

```
Data cables to weather station: Black and drain = GROUND
                                TTL level clock = RED
                                RTS input
                                             = GREEN
                                Data output
                                             = WHITE
Audio cables to external radio: Black and drain = GROUND
                                PTT line = WHITE
                                Input to radio = GREEN
                                Output from radio RED
Data cables to computer
                              : Drain wire
                                                = GROUND
                                RTS
                                                = BLACK
                    Data output from radiomodem = RED
                    Data input to radiomodem
                                               = GREEN
                                CTS
                                                = WHITE
                                Audio from rec. = BROWN
                                Testmode sense = BLUE
Selftest cable to Test Module: Audio from rec. = BLACK
                                Testmode sense = CLEAR
                                Ground
                                                = Drainwire
IBM PC RELEVENT PINOUT: (Refers to male DB25P connector)
PIN 1
              IBM chassis ground (to radiomodem pins L,M,N)
PIN 2
              Transmit Data (to radiomodem pin I)
PIN 3
              Receive Data (from radiomodem pin D)
PIN 4
              RTS (output to radiomodem pin C)
              CTS (jumper to pin 6 and 8)
PIN 5
              DSR (jumper to pin 5 and 8)
PIN 6
PIN 7
              IBM signal ground (connected to pin 1 inside)
              (jumper to pin 1)
PIN 8
              DCD input (jumper to pin 5 and 6)
PIN 20
              DTR (output to radiomodem pin H)
```

For the serial printer port, the pinout is the same, except it is wired as data terminal equipment and therefore has pins 2 and 3 swapped.

SPECIFICATIONS

****** NOT INCLUDING TRANSCEIVER ******

POWER: 12 TO 16 VOLTS, < 3 mA average drain, 50 mA peak

OPERATING: -20C TO +60C; CAST ALUMINUM CASE IS WATERPROOF

ENVIRONMENT

CASE DIMENSIONS: L 36 cm, W 16 cm, H 9 cm

MODEM TYPE: 1200 baud coherent FSK, half duplex operation

OCCUPIED: 1200 Hz equivalent noise bandwidth centered on

BANDWIDTH 2078 Hz

MINIMUM PERFORMANCE: No errors over full temperature range

for a 7 dB unweighted S/N ratio over entire

voice channel

RADIO INTERFACE: 500 mA open collector PTT transmitter

keying line

Audio input 600 ohms, -30 dBm to +1 dBm Audio output 600 ohms, -40 dBm to 0 dBm

ERROR CONTROL: Reed Muller error correction for up to 3

random errors in any two consecutive

characters.

PROTOCOL: Custom HDLC packet switched control to allow

up to 65533 sites to be monitored on one channel, and to allow the unit to act as repeater, base or data platform as required. External communications is asynchronous, but all radio transmission is synchronous and securely coded with Reed Muller technique.

TYPE OF EMISSION: This specification varies with the radio,

but according to international designations on FM narrowband radio license applications it is called: 16K0F2DCN. 16K0 means that the bandwidth is within 16 KHz limits. F2 means that the main carrier is frequency modulated with digital information on an audio subcarrier. D stands for data transmission. CN means the data is carried by a two state

code with error correction.

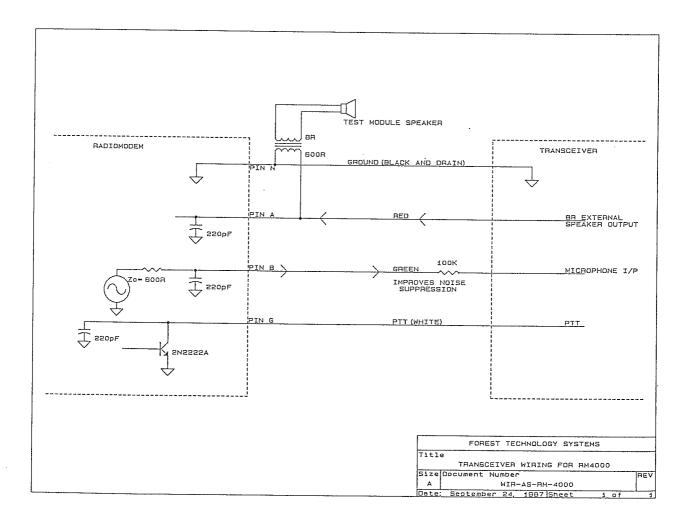
Powerful transceivers in the 25 watt and greater class pose several problems in remote installations. Pay careful attention to these special instructions so that your radio installation will operate properly, and reliably over the long term. The problems are associated with the following differences between low power transceivers and the higher power versions:

- 1) High power transceivers are too large and dissipate too much heat to be used inside the sealed radiomodem enclosure.
- 2) High power solid state transceivers are always less efficient at producing RF energy, and therefore large currents are required from the battery. This poses very unexpected problems in low voltage systems, and even makes audio connections more difficult.
- 3) If power strobing is used to decrease the standby power consumption of the transceiver, expect huge surge currents in the power supply lines which may interfere with other electronic equipment on the same power source.
- 4) Since high power transceivers are mounted externally, and are designed to operate with external antennas, antenna cable problems must be dealt with, and the selection of an appropriate antenna must be made.

CONNECTING AN EXTERNAL RADIO:

The radiomodem was designed to operate with external radios using an audio patch into the external speaker output and the microphone input. The transceiver is normally assumed to run continuously in the receive mode, unsquelched. If the receiver consumes too much current for your needs, we can usually strobe the power supply to the receiver to decrease the AVERAGE power consumption. If you have this option in your installation, be aware of the problems described in the third section.

Audio connections:



Connecting an external radio con't:

No radio for mobile use will tolerate operation in environments with excessive humidity. If any dew setting is possible, the radio must be placed in a SEALED enclosure, with dessicant. If this precaution is not taken, frequency drift, and intermittent operation will occur. If the transceiver is sealed, make sure the enclosure is large enough to provide air circulation around the heat sink.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR HIGH CURRENT CONNECTIONS:

With solid state radio transmitters, efficiency decreases with output power. This means that a 25 watt transceiver operating at around 25% efficiency will consume 100 watts while it is transmitting. This is a tough problem when you are using battery power supplies. Mobiletransceivers are DESIGNED to operate on an automotive system where the alternator will maintain the battery voltage at around 13.8 Volts. A wet shallow cycle maintainance-free battery will supply about 12.25 Volts at the 50% discharge point. This is a very bad operating voltage for mobile transceivers, but for most of our installations, it is the normal voltage of the power supply as the solar panels stop charging the battery when the sun goes down.

To further complicate the problem, there is a voltage loss in the power supply leads when the transmitter draws a heavy current through them. There is

an additional voltage loss at every mechanical connection. Some fuses that have a high voltage rating have a significant voltage drop as well.

The point, therefore, is to eliminate all voltage drops as best you can, since operation on battery power is marginal to begin with. The radiomodem will fail outright at 11.5 Volts. Mobile radios vary in their performance, but never assume they can operate below 11.5 Volts. A typical automotive style connector is good for about 0.2 V of loss in new condition, with a 25 Watt transceiver. Three meters of #14 gauge wire (2 conductors) will drop about 0.5 Volts. A 10 Amp low voltage fuse and its holder contribute about 0.2 Volts of losses.

How to reduce voltage drops:

- 1) Keep the power leads to the radio as short as possible, and use heavy gauge wire. Gauge 14 is suitable for 1 meter runs. Guage 10 is better for longer runs of cable.
- 2) Solder all your terminals, or else they must be considered mechanical connections. When there is a mechanical connection, such as a fuse holder or power plug, use electrical tape to seal the connection from corrosion. Corrosion in a mechanical connection will ruin the performance of your installation.

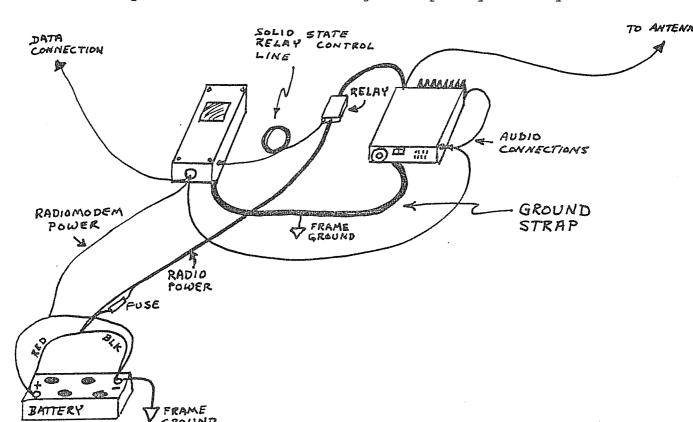
- 3) When you have a metal frame, use it as a negative ground. Most transceivers are negative ground frames, or provide for this option. Then you can eliminate the voltage drops in the negative lead by sending the current through the frame.
- 4) Use only one fuse, and place it in the POSITIVE supply lead.
- 5) Use a separate wire connection to the battery for the radiomodem itself. Therefore voltage drops in the transceiver supply cable will not affect the voltage delivered to the radiomodem.
- 6) Make sure that you have a reasonably powerful battery. The maximum voltage that can be delivered at 10 Amps varies with the type of battery you are using. Make conservative choices, and base your decision on a 50% discharged battery. A 45 Amp Hour car battery is suitable for most transceivers in the 25 Watt class.
- 7) There is another nasty problem associated with voltage drops relating to the audio connections. The radiomodem uses ground potential to refer all its audio voltages. A voltage drop in the ground connection is essentially added to the audio voltage. If you have a loose connection, or a noisy power source, there will be interference with the transmitted audio from the radiomodem. You MUST make sure that there is a HEAVY ground strap connection between the frame of the

radiomodem and the frame of the transceiver to eliminate these voltage drops. CAUTION! You often only notice this problem AFTER vibration or corrosion of connections makes it apparent. It is best to take precautions. The heavy copper braid from RG8 coaxial cable is a suitable ground strap material.

Special precautions for strobed receivers

The strobed receivers use an external solid state relay to turn the receiver on during the strobe interval. Different transceivers stabilize in different times, but the overall effect of strobing is to reduce the average current consumption of the transceiver. If you have this option installed in your radiomodem, be aware that most high power transceivers consume huge surge currents the moment they are turned on.

The surge current will be on the order of 30 to 50 Amps using our solid state relay. This causes a instantaneous voltage drop in low capacity batteries. The terminal voltage of a fully charged 10 Amp Hour gelled cell has been observed to drop 4 Volts at the beginning of each strobe period. This short loss of voltage will cause havoc in other electronic equipment sharing the same battery, Solution: - Use a higher capacity battery.



CHOOSING ANTENNAS AND CABLES FOR 25 WATT TRANSCEIVERS:

Yet more problems can be experienced with antenna systems. This seems to be the most common radio problem since the antenna is always exposed to weathering. No compromise should be made in the selection of the antenna. It must be corrosion proof and allow for sealing the coaxial feedline. If the specifications of the antenna do not exactly say that the coax is sealed, check with the manufacturer to make sure. The slightest amount of water in the braid of coax operating at UHF will destroy the performance of the radio.

Most common RG8 style cable is appropriate, but it is up to the installer to purchase the correct cable for the application. When the station is licensed, you must be able to provide details on the feedline losses and the antenna gain. Coaxial cable deteriorates, and UHF installations will need feedline replacement every year to maintain peak performance, using common grades of RG8 coaxial cable.

Wherever radio regulations permit, use an antenna with gain, such a directional yagi, or a collinear array. For UHF, collinear whips offer up to 5 dB gain at little expense. They are rugged, convenient, and omnidirectional. There are now teflon coated versions produced by Larsen for use in corrosive environments. Make sure the plastic parts can withstand ultraviolet light. Caulking compound should be clear silicone to

avoid RF losses. Avoid enclosed loading coils, since most of them will eventually leak.

As a final note, the following formulas can be used to compute the approximate energy drain based on several common variables:

For strobed systems:

$$\left[\left(2.9 \left(\frac{S_P}{S_I} \right) + 24 I_R \right) + \frac{ \left(0.8 I_R + I_T \right) \left(1 + N_S \left(2 \right) \right) \left(P_D + \frac{N_B}{200} \right) }{3600} \right] \left(13.8 \right) = \frac{W_{ATT} \cdot H_{OURS}}{D_{AY}}$$

For normal systems:

$$\left[\left(2.9 + 24 \, I_R \right) \left(\frac{S_P}{S_i} \right) + \frac{\left(0.8 \, I_R + \underline{I_T} \right) \left(1 + N_S(z) \right) \left(P_O + \frac{N_B}{200} \right)}{3600} \right] \left(13.8 \right) = \frac{W_{ATT} - Hours}{D_{AY}}$$

Sp -Strobe period: The amount of time the radiomodem applies power to its circuitry.

Si -Strobe interval: The period (in seconds) between the commencement of the strobe periods.

con't...

Pi -Polling interval: The period in hours between polls by the base station.

Nb -Number of bytes being transferred.

Pd -Data carrier period: The number of seconds the stations send a clear data carrier to lock on remote stations.

Ns -Number of stations which use the unit in question as a repeater.

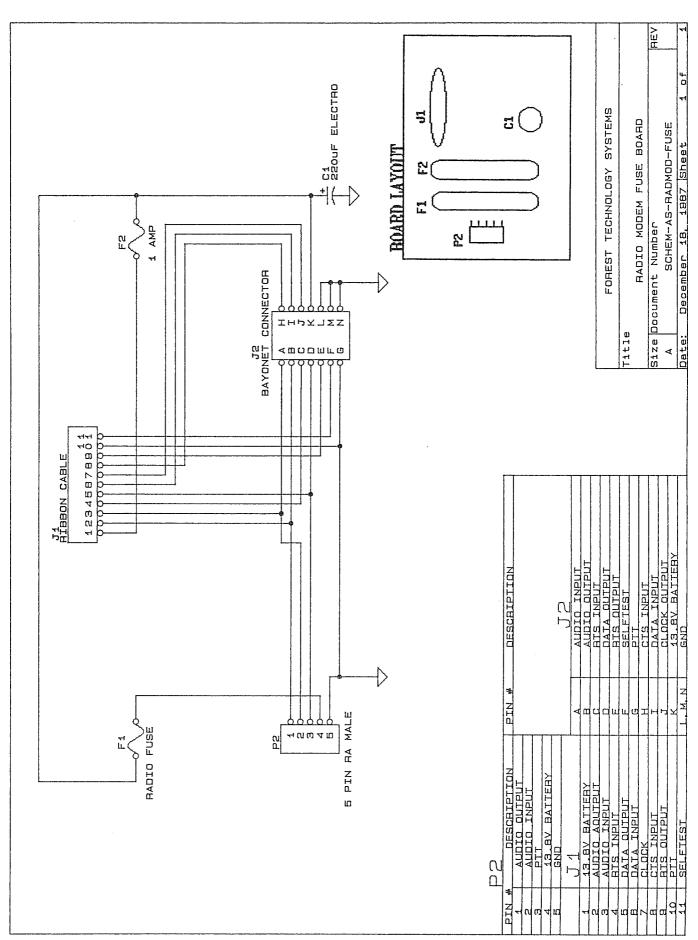
Ir -Radio's receiver current drain.(Amps)

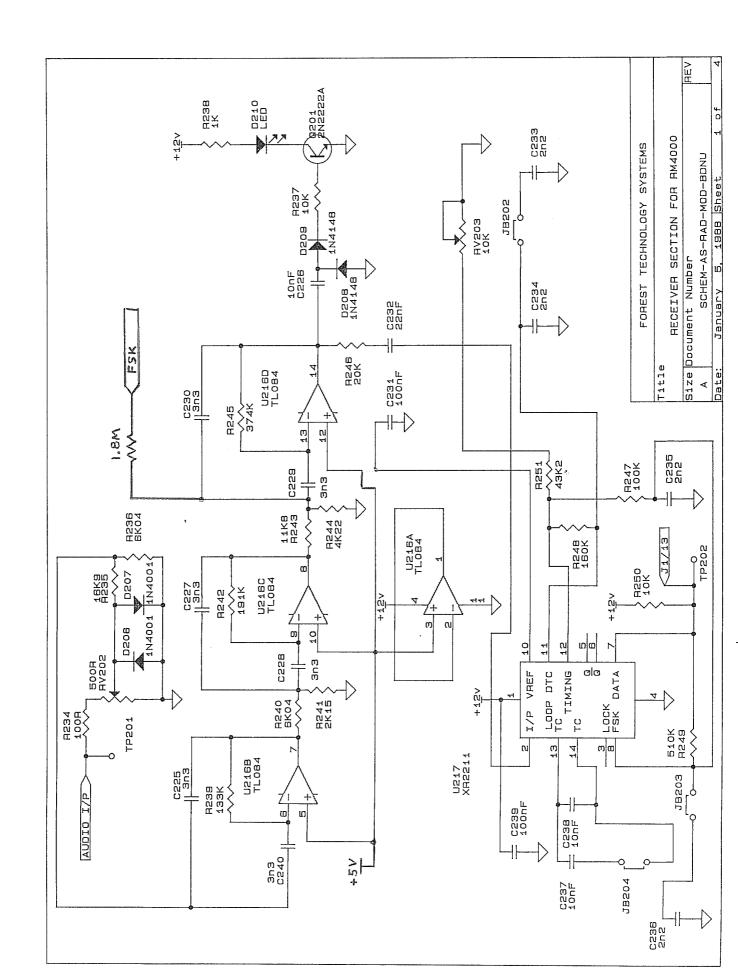
It -Radio's transmitter current drain.(Amps)

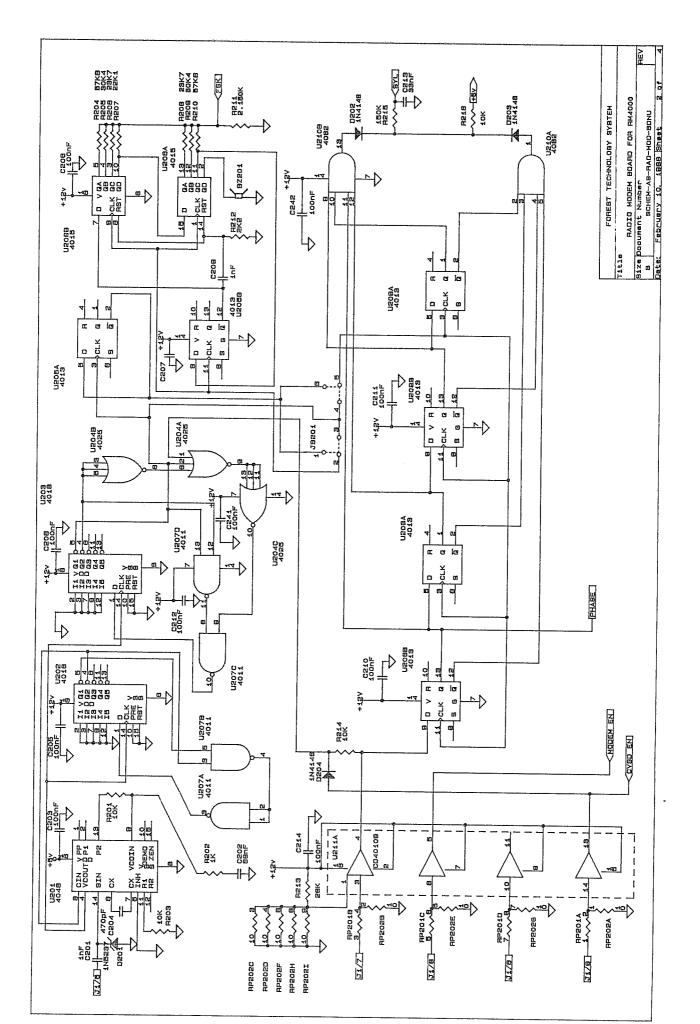
35. 35. 35. 35. 35. 35.

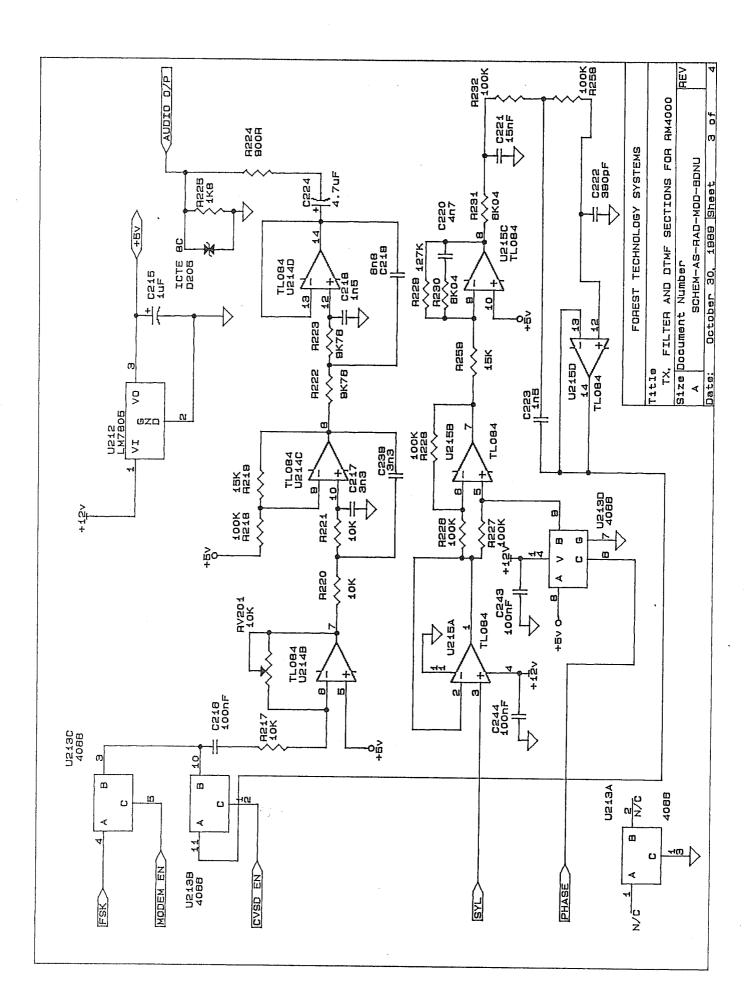
I/O MAP

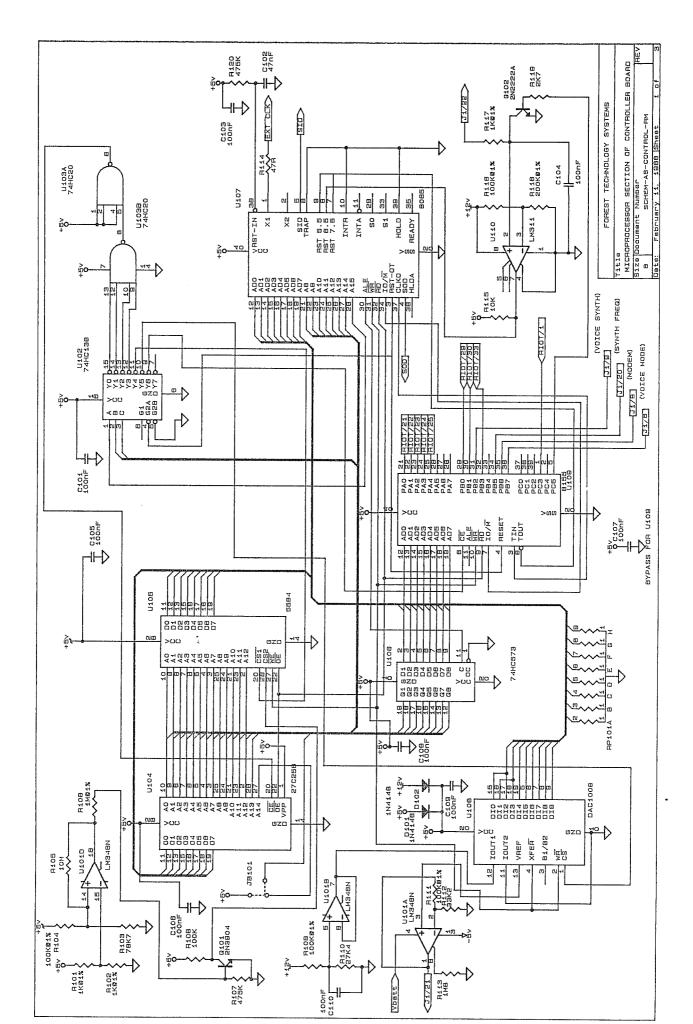
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PORTCO - This is an internal register for controlling the 81C55A
 bits 7 and 6 - timer control - 00 = no change, 01 = stop now, 10 = stop at end, 11 = starts count. bits 5 and 4 - 81C55A interrupt. conrtol - not used at present, see
 data sheets.
bits 3 and 2 - port C3 mode conrol - 11 means both set to output which is normal.
bit 1 - port C2 mode control. 1 = output, 0 = input.
bit 0 - port C1 mode control. 1 = output, 0 = input.
 PORTC1 - This is an input port on the 81C55a. Pin number are
 included.
bit 7, pin 28 - real time clock
bit 6, pin 27 - real time clock
bit 5, pin 26 - real time clock
bit 5, pin 26 - real time clock
bit 4, pin 25 - autocal sense for version 1.4 and above. Active low
bit 3, pin 24 - PTT sense, active low. Also self test pin.
bit 2, pin 23 - Voice Mode sense. Active low.
bit 1, pin 22 - RTS wake-up indicator. Active high.
bit 0, pin 21 - Ready signal from IBM. Active high.
PORTC2 - This is an output port on the 81C55A. Pin numbers are
 include.
bit 7, pin 36 - Voice mode enable. Active high.
bit 6, pin 35 - Modem enable. Active high.
bit 5, pin 34 - Synthesize, low = receive, high = transmit.
bit 4, pin 33 - RTS sent when high.
bit 3, pin 32 - not committed.
bit 2, pin 31 - Voice synthesis, CVSD mode high.
bit 1, pin 30 - Terminal blocked when low.
bit 0. pin 29 - Radio data blocked when low.
PORTC3 - This is an output port on the 81C55A. Pin numbers are
included.
bit 5, pin 5 - High resets the A/D converter.
bit 4, pin 2 - High enters sleep mode.
bit 3, pin 1 - High for radio power.
bit 2, pin 39 - not committed.
bit 1, pin 38 - High sets XMIT/RCV relay to XMIT.
bit 0, pin 37 - not committed.
PORTC4 - This is an internal register to the 81C55A. it is used to
set timer.
bits 7 thru \emptyset - These are the 8 low order timer delay bits. They may be set at any time
PORTC5 - This is an internal register to the 81C55A. It is used to
set part of the delay value for the timer and to set the time function.
bits 7 and 6 - 00 = 50% single shot, 01 = CS square wave, 10 = pulse single shot, 11 = CW pulses.
bit 5 - bit 13
bit 4 - bit 12
bit 3 - bit 11
bit 2 - bit 10
bit 1 - bit 9
bit 0 - bit 8
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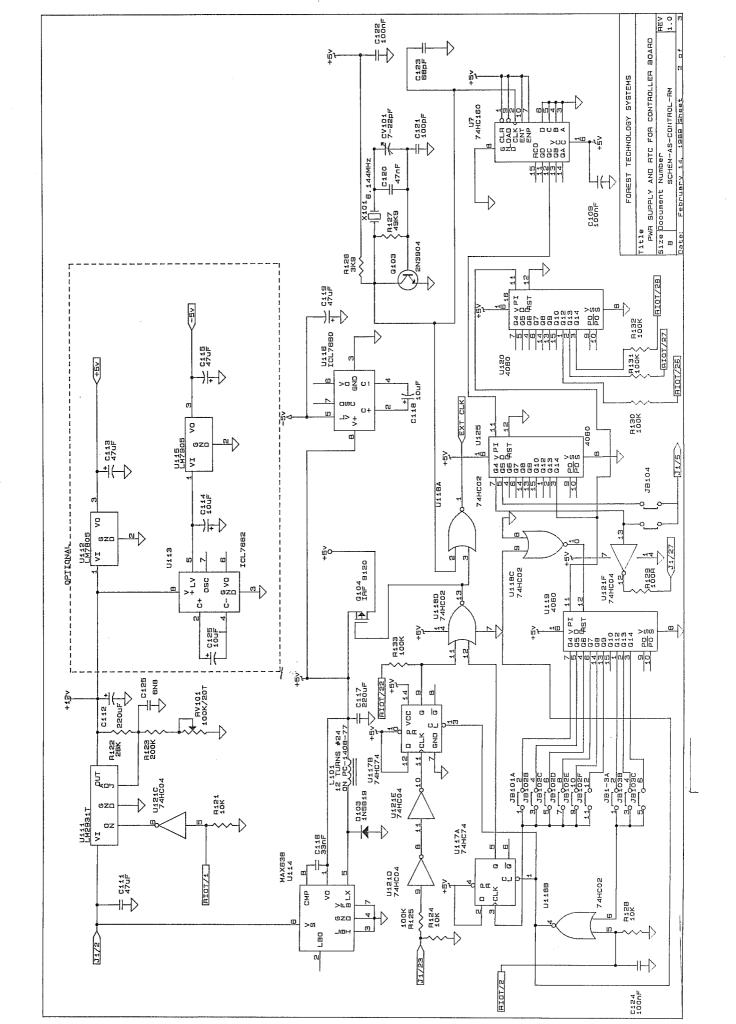


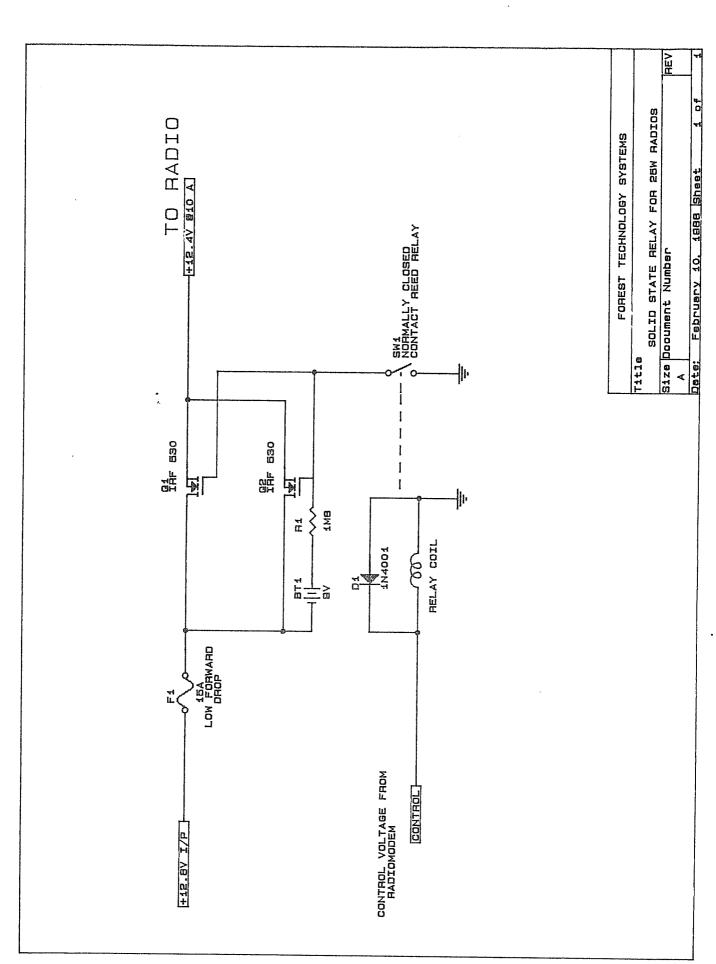


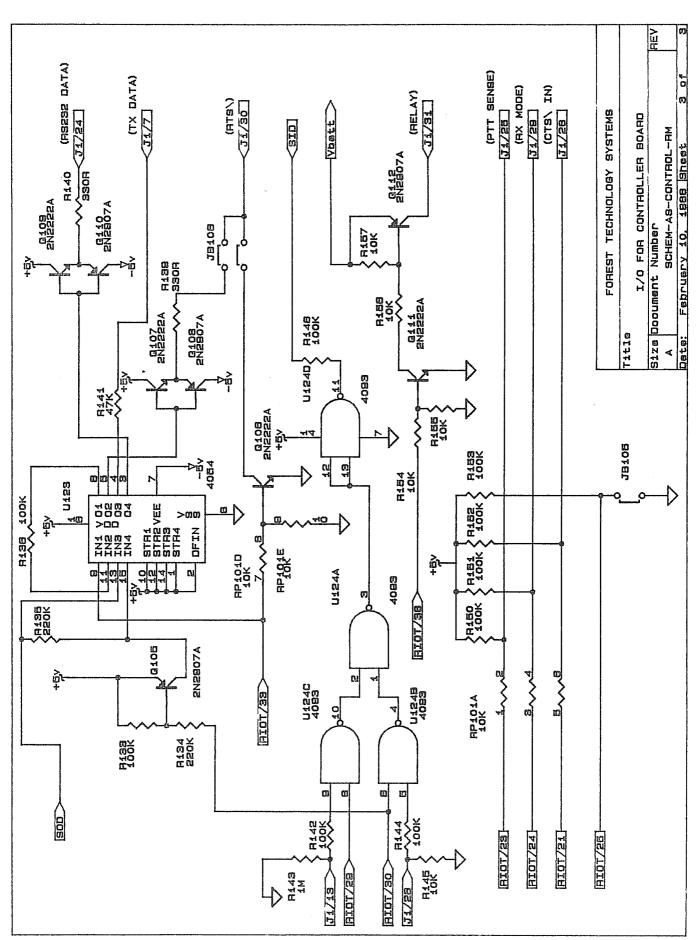


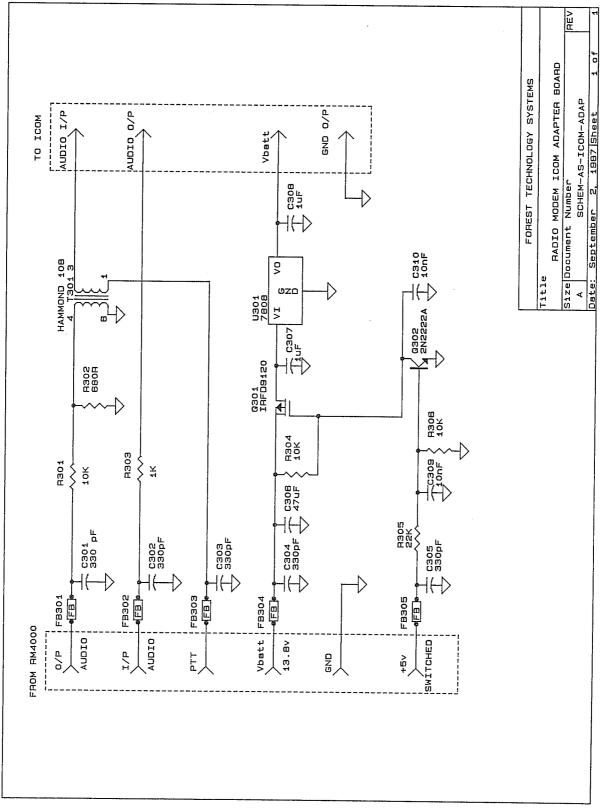


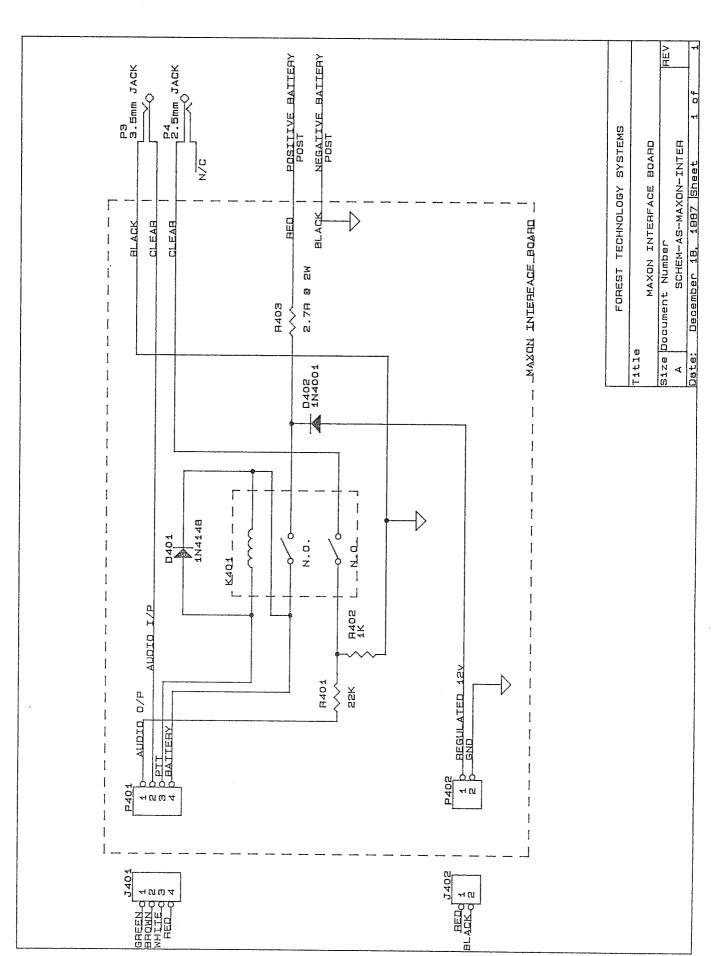


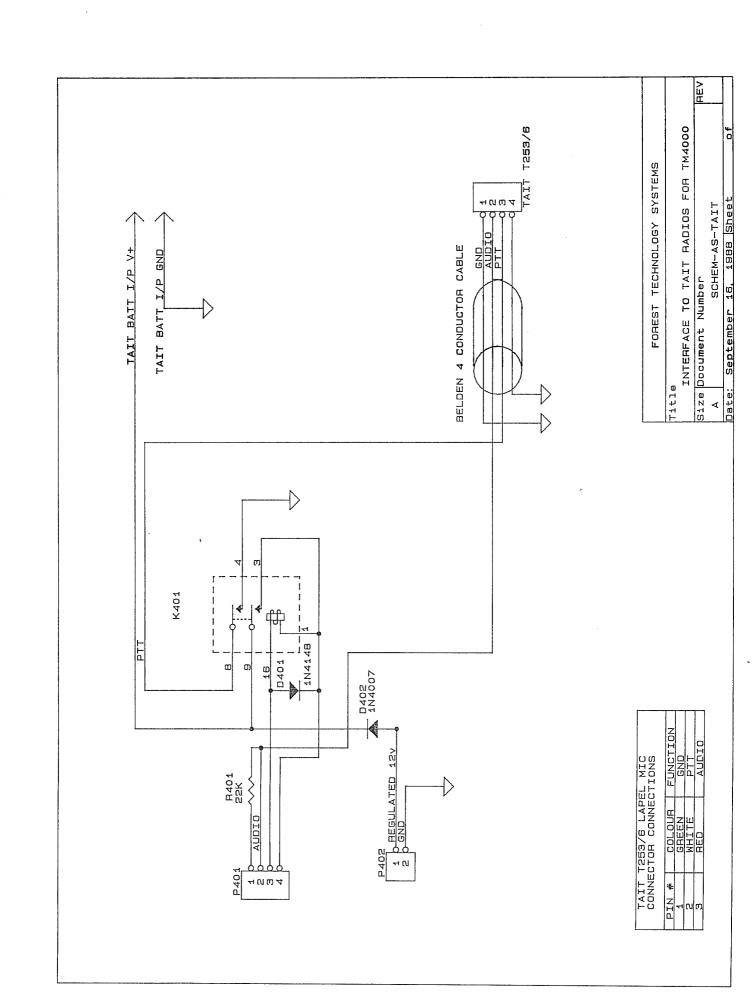


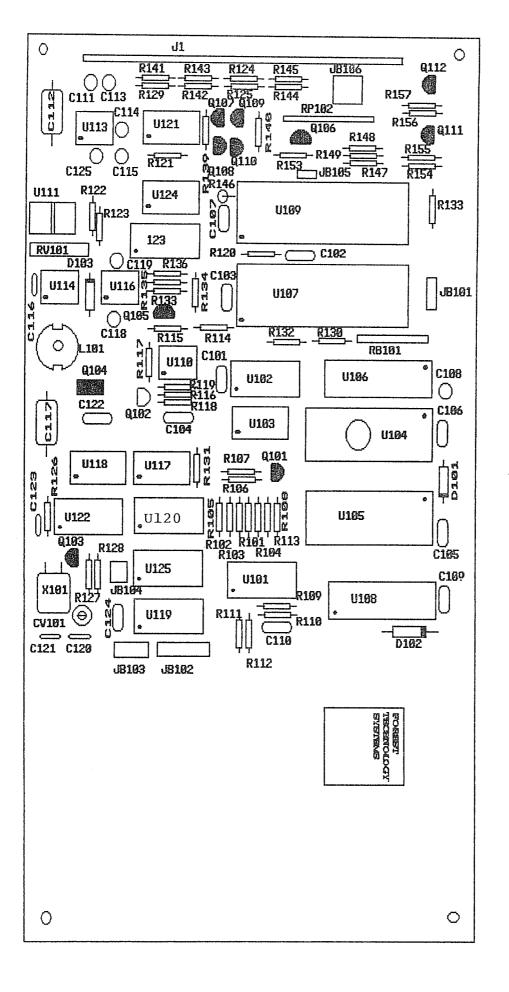




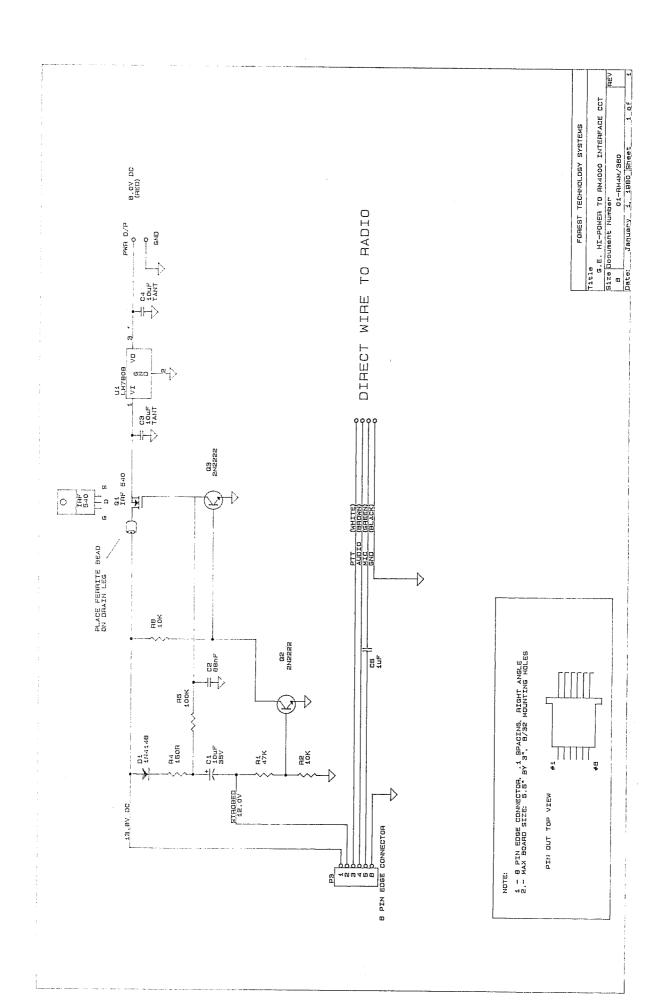


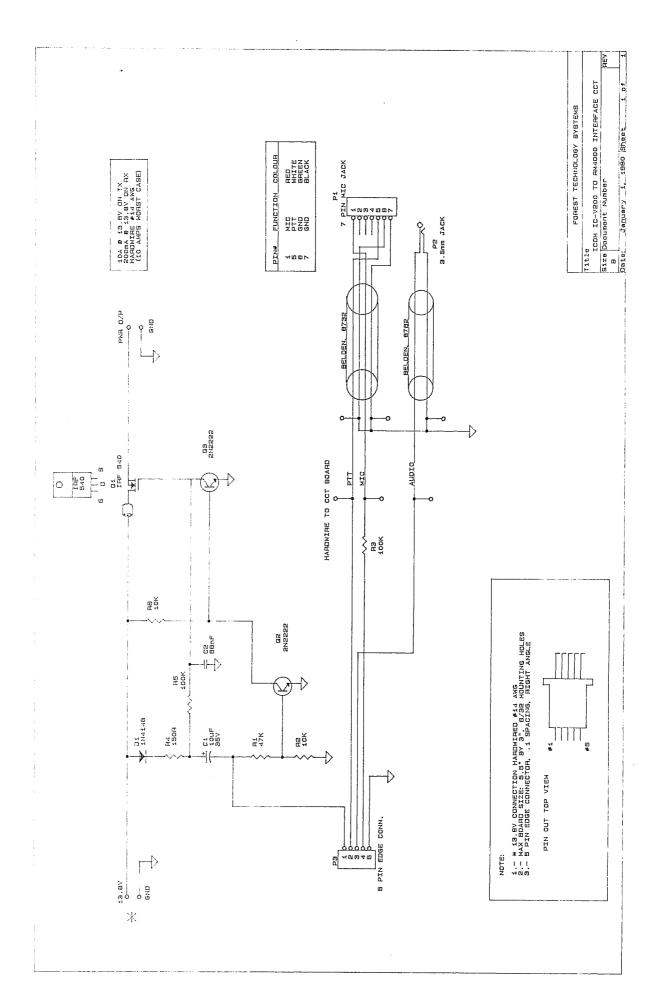


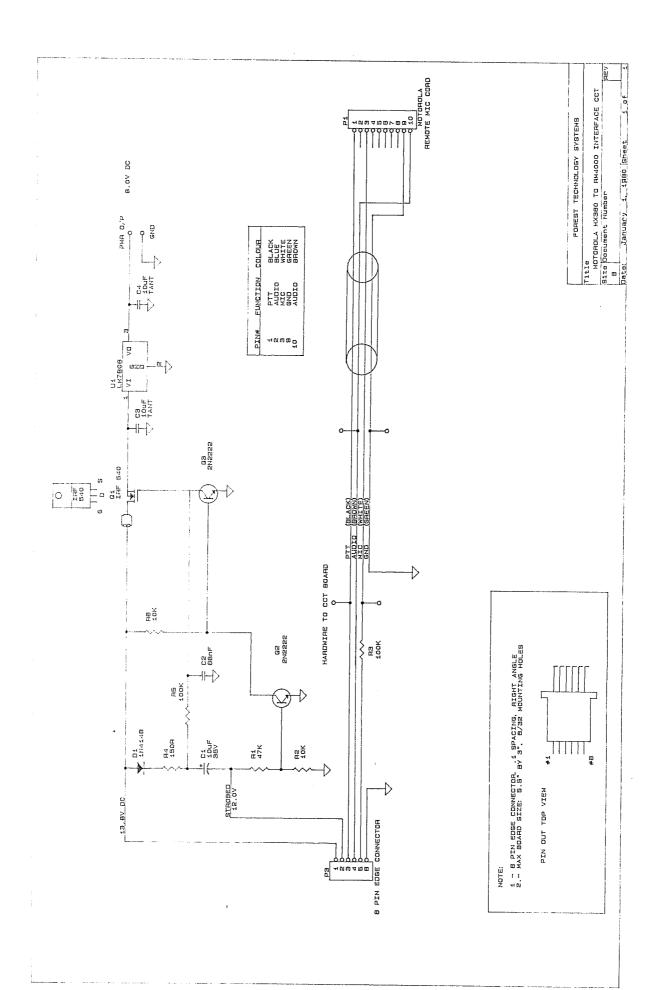


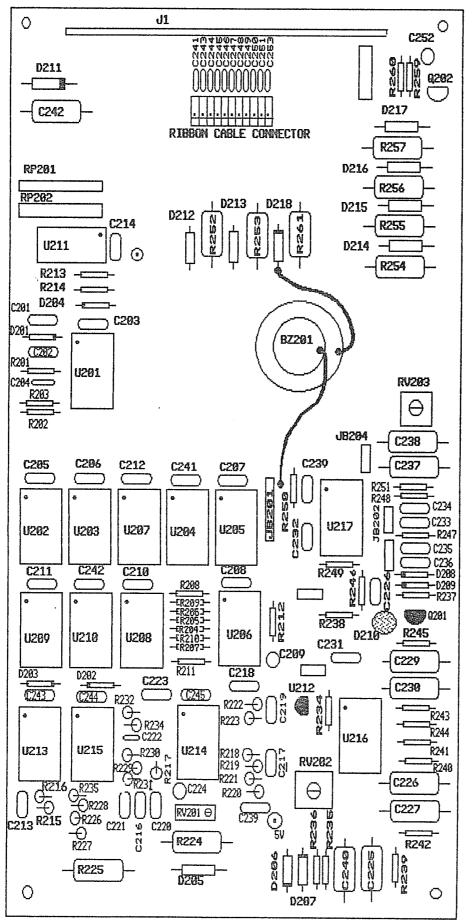


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