

THEORY OF OPERATION

Explorer725

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This PLL controlling VHF marine mobile transceiver provides an accurate and stable multi-channel operation.

The transceiver consists of 15 main sections:

- Transmitting stage
- Receiving stage
- Local oscillator PLL (Phase Lock Loop) Circuit
- Memory backup
- Low voltage detection
- Large LCD
- Local/distance Circuit
- 2nd Receiver (only VHF7210 EU)
- WX Alert Circuit (only VHF7210 US)
- PC Program
- DSC Feature
- GPS Message
- ATIS Feature (only VHF7210 EU)
- BARO&TEMP
- NAVBUS
- 2nd Console
- INTERCOM

- **Transmitter Stage**

The local mic signal is pre-emphasized and amplified via U205B, and the remote mic signal is pre-emphasized and amplified via U205C; CPU coding DSC signal is filtered via U205D form FSK signal. One of 3 signals is picked up by the electric switch U204, and amplified via U205A, by pass filter U10C, U10D, VR3 deviation and is sent to VCO modulation carrier through Varicap (VD302),

The modulated signal output from the VCO is pre-amplified by Q2, and U1. When the supply voltage is 13.8V, this signal will be amplified up to 1W or 25W. The signal is filtered by low-pass filter circuit of which consists of L1, L2, L4, C1, C2, C3, C5, C6, C14, C47 and C62. These low pass filters are necessary to suppress the second and the third harmonics as higher. The signal is then fed into the antenna input and radiated out. The signal is also fed into another path consisting of C9, C10, D3, D4 for sampling, and is

converted into a direct current voltage for the Automatic Power Control (APC) circuit U12, Q5, Q14, Q15, Q24 to control the voltage of U1 Pin 2 to maintain the output power stability. Q15 is used control Hi/Lo power.

When the unit is transmitting, the channel control voltage is added to the TX VCO varicap VD306. The capacitance of VD302 is varied following the audio signal, therefore the carrier is modulated to form the modulated signal.

- **Receiver Stage**

The receiver uses a double frequency super-heterodyne circuit. The first Immediate Frequency (IF) is 21.4 MHz and the second is 450 kHz.

The RF signal is received by the antenna, and passes through a low-pass filter network L1, L2, L3, L9, C1, C2, C3, C5, C6, C14, C47 and C62 to filter out unwanted signal. The received RF signal then passes through a high RF transformer L10 and is amplified by RF amplifier Q9. L11, L12, L13, C15, C18, C20 form the band pass filter. The RF signal then is mixed with the local oscillation frequency by the mixer D22, D23. The first IF (Immediate Frequency) 21.4 MHz is produced. This IF is passed through a coil T2 and a pair of crystal filter F1, F2 to further filter out other unwanted signals. The first IF then is amplified by Q11 and the IF amplifier U7. (U7 is an integrated IF amplifier which consists of a local oscillator, a demodulator, a second mixer, squelch control circuit, and IF amplifier). The 21.4 MHz IF then is mixed here with second mixer and converted into 2nd Immediate Frequency (IF) 450 kHz. The 2nd IF passes through a ceramic filter F4 to filter out the residue unwanted signal at pin 5 of U7 output this final IF signal and The demodulated AF signal is output at pin 9 of U7.

The demodulated AF signal pass through U15 then passes through a volume control VR201 through de-emphasis circuit feeding U10A, U10B. and finally amplified by Audio amplifier U11 and heard in the speaker.

The squelch control signal also produced by U7, the rectified noise signal is output by Pin 14 of the U7. Pass through the network by composition of C170 R44 are sends the digital squelch control signal to the MCU to mute the audio speaker path and to indicate the RX station on LCD, R214, R217 and VR203 form a variable resistor, which correspond to the squelch level.

- **INTERCOM**

Holding the local mic PTT key, the local mic signal reaches to the remote console via U205B, U204, U208 and cable; and is amplified via U4 to 0.5W speaker. Otherwise holding the remote mic PTT key, the

remote mic signal passes U205C, U204, U10C, U10D, then pass R622, R620, C201 and is switched by U15, and then pass VR201, U10A, U11 and is amplified to 2W speaker.

- **The 2nd CONSOLE**

The 2nd handset consists of CPU U601, AF power amplifier U604, Microphone, 0.5W Speaker, LCD Display and 16 keys; it has a function control of the base station via 10 meters cable, including INTERCOM and communication with the radio at the distance. The display on the 2nd handset is basically same with main radio display, and refresh at the same time.

- **Local oscillator PLL (Phase Lock Loop) Circuit:**

The receiver and transmitter both share the same PLL (Phase Lock Loop) Circuitry to produce the carrier frequency or the receiver local oscillation frequency. The local oscillator consists of a fundamental frequency oscillator Q301 and A phase Lock Loop (PLL) U16. When Rx 5V voltage is supply, the VCO will produce receiver local oscillator frequency. The high stability frequency is determined by crystal X2 and as the PLL reference oscillator. This signal is frequency-divided by IC16 and a 12.5 kHz signal is produced. When the VCO frequency applied to U16 pin1 and frequency-divided by U2 produces a frequency comparable to 12.5 kHz, PLL IC pin 3 will output a PD voltage to control the VCO. When these two frequencies are matched, a constant control voltage is output from PLL to lock VCO in desired frequency. Otherwise the PLL IC pin 5 will also output a unlock indication to MCU to indicate that the PLL is in the frequency unlock state.

- **Memory Backup**

U201 is an EEPROM AT24C64, which acts as a memory backup for the working channel code and the system parameters. Every time when the unit is switched on, the MCU will reset the system, clear the RAM, and recall the memory from the EEPROM to refresh the RAM in MCU U203.

- **Low Voltage Detection**

The battery voltage divided by R250 and R251 through R254 is input to U203 for voltage level detection. If the battery voltage drops below 10.5 V, LCD will indicate the battery is in low state.

- **Large LCD**

All message through series bus from MCU to display driver U401 and will be displayed through a 41×53mm 4×12 characters dot matrix LCD display.

- **Local/distance circuit**

Local/distance circuits are composed of R10, R12, D1 and C37. When local SW is on high level, receiver sensitive is high otherwise is on low.

- **2nd Receiver (only VHF7210 EU)**

2nd receiver circuit is as figure. RF input is from C101 of main PCB, the received RF signal then passes through a high RF transformer L505 and is amplified by RF amplifier Q501, L506, L507, L508, C15, C18, C20 form the band pass filter. Then passes through a high RF transformer L509 is mixed with the first local oscillation frequency by the mixer D501, D502, D503, D504. The first IF (Immediate Frequency) 17.9 MHz is produced. This IF signal is passed through a transformer coil L510 and a pair of crystal filter F1, F2 to further filter. The first IF then is amplified by Q503 and the IF amplifier U501. U501 is an integrated IF amplifier which consists of a 2nd local oscillator (18.355Mhz), a demodulator, a second mixer, squelch control circuit, and IF amplifier circuits). The 17.9MHz IF then is mixed here with second mixer and converted into 2nd Immediate Frequency (IF) 455 kHz. The 2nd IF passes through a ceramic filter F503 to filter out the residue unwanted signal at pin 5 of U501 output this final IF signal and The demodulated FSK signal is output at pin 9 of U501 through R517 C543 pass J501.J4 fed in U15 pin 13 of the main PCB.

The squelch control is also controlled by U501. The audio signal passes through the low pass filter R514, R515, C541 and U501 internal squelch control R516, and C542 that form as a squelch amplifier to produce a squelch signal (noise) from pin11 of U501 output, this signal is then amplified by Q505 and regulated by D505 to produce a direct current voltage as a control voltage then it is fed through R526 and pin14 to U501 from pin13 output the busy signal.

- **WX Alert Circuit (only VHF7210 US)**

The 1050Hz tone of receiver through U6A composed band-pass filter and U6B amplifier form square wave signal. To fed U203 pin97 produce weather alert.

- **PC Program**

J203 on CPU is connected with the outside cabinet through a cable with a round pin8 plug. Software upgrade and clone can be functioned when an exclusive interface control box is connected with RS-232 interface of computer.

When the light on control box is green, J203 pin3 is high level (5V), CPU programming is performed, and the software is upgraded. When the light on control box is red, clone function is performed.

- **DSC Feature**

DSC TX Encoded by MCU U203, through RP1, R237, R234, produces D/A convert, and U205D low pass filter forms FSK signal. This signal is amplified by U205A and filtered by U10C, U10D to modulate VCO frequency from the DSC signal transmit output.

ON the VHF7210 US, DSC signal is received and demodulated by U7.the Demodulated signal is sent into pin12 of U15, from pin 14 of U15 output, then the signal passes then through U6C high-pass filter and U6D low-pass filter form FSK signal. This FSK is signal decoded by U4. The DSC is restored by U203 [MCU] with RX data from U4 pin7.

While the VHF7210 EU, DSC signal is from 2nd receiver. It is Send to U15 pin13 on the main PCB.

- **GPS Message**

External GPS Message is input to MCU through phototransistor U908 and LCD will display the machine current location and time message in idle state.

- **ATIS Feature (only VHF7210 EU)**

ATIS encoded by MCU (U203), through RP1, R237, R234, produces D/A conversion, and U205D low pass filter forms FSK signal. Through the attenuation be composed of R215, R218, R227 and Q202 This signal is amplified by U205A and filtered by U10C, U10D to modulate VCO frequency forming the ATIS signal transmit output.

ATIS signal is received and demodulated by U7. Demodulated signal is sent into pin12 of U15, from pin 14 of U15 output .the signal passes through U6C high-pass filter and U6D low-pass filter to get ATIS FSK signal and filter out residual unwanted signals. This FSK is signal decoded by U4. The ATIS is restored and processed by MCU U203 with RX data from pin7 of U4. Be formed control signal to production about 100ms squelch to mute audio speak path.

- **BARO&TEMP MODE**

In mike there is a barometer & temperature mode the barometer sample every 15 minutes Then the data is send to U902 (ST2202) pass through U203 (CPU) for display on LCD. A 24 –hour running log is maintained in NV memory of ST2202.

- **NAVBUS**

NAVBUS is composite of U905 and associate circuit together ST2202 supply time signal. It is used to signal exchange and transmission.

ALIGNMENT PROCDDURES

This transceiver is completely aligned at the factory and does not require any adjustments for installation. However it is considered as good practice to verify that none of the adjustments are changed.

Do not adjust any circuitry in this radiotelephone unless you understand the circuit operation and have experience in adjusting radiotelephone. Tampering with the radiotelephone may upset the alignment and lower its performance.

Test Equipment Required:

- Regulated DC power supply, 10 -16V adjustable, 7A
- Audio signal generator, 10Hz~3kHz
- Digital multimeter
- Deviation meter {linear detector}
- Frequency counter, 0~500MHz high impedance
- Oscilloscope
- RF power meter, $\geq 30W$
- High frequency standard generator, >500MHz
- Tracking generator, >500MHz
- Distortion analyzer
- Audio level meter
- T-coupler
- Sinad meter
- Alignment drivers, etc.
- Or a radio communication test set 2955 (MARCONI INSTRUMENTS)

ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURE

Step	Item	Adjustment	Procedure
1,	PLL	L302, L307	RX PD voltage=1.6V TX PD voltage =2V, at CH16
2	TX Frequency	VC2	Adjust VC2 to obtain demanded TX frequency. $\pm 200\text{Hz}$
3	TX Power Hi	VR5	Adjust VR5 to obtain demanded TX power $23\pm 2\text{W}$.
4	TX Power Low	VR6	Adjust VR6 to obtain demanded TX power $0.8\pm 0.1\text{W}$
5	TX. Deviation	VR3	1. Inject an audio frequency (AF) -20dBm. 2. Adjust VR3 to obtain maximum TX deviation $\leq 5\text{kHz}$. 3. Check MIC modulation sensitivity, which should be $2.5\sim 10\text{ mV}$.
6	RX Sensitivity	L10, L11, L12, L13, L14, L19, T1, T2, T3	1. Check RX sensitivity if it is normal. 2. Adjust L10, L11, L12, and L13 to obtain Best Frequency response. 3. Adjust T1.T2 to obtain Best Frequency response. 4. Adjust T1.T2 to obtain Best sensitivity. 5. Adjust T3 to obtain Best SIAND AND Distortion. When at antenna terminal input 1mV RF signal and modulated with normal test modulation. 6. Repeat step 1 to 5.at CH28 and CH3.
7	DSC test		Check Modulation index for DSC. Modulation index for DSC. Frequency error (demodulated DSC signal)
8	ATIS test		Check Modulation index for ATIS. Modulation index for ATIS. Frequency error (demodulated ATIS signal)

TROUBLESHOOTING

Before troubleshooting, prepare your unit as follows:

- Connect the power supply.
- Turn volume control fully clockwise so that it is all the way up.

Item	Symptom	Cause/Remedy
1	Unit is not able to turn on.	● Check the power voltage and power switch. ● Check to see if Q207,U206,U203 defective.
2	No sound with AF signal applied to pin 4 of U15.	● Check to see if U11 and /or associated components is Defective. ● Check to see if speaker on control circuit VR201, U10A, U10B, is defective.
3	Squelch circuit inoperative.	● Check to see if VR203 is defective. ● Check to see if U4 is defective.
4	No receiver (RX)	● Check to see if U11 is defective. ● Check to see if U7 audio output at pin 9 is defective. ● Check U15 and /or associated components is Defective.. ● Check 21.4MHz output of crystal filters F1, F2. ● Check 21.4MHz output of first IF amplifier Q11. ● Check 450kHz signal from ceramic filter F3. ● Check local oscillation frequency output of Q10. ● Check to see if VCO circuit is defective. ● Check to see MCU is defective.
5	Low receiver sensitivity	● Check to see if antenna is bad connecting. ● Check to see if the output from Q9, Q10, Q11 and F1, F2 is defective.
6	No transmission (TX)	● Check to see if the PTT switch is defective. ● Check to see if Q2 is defective. ● Check to see if power control circuit Q5, Q14, Q25 are defective. ● Check to see if VCO circuit is defective. ● Check PLL control voltage if it reads $2 \pm 0.2V$ at 156.05MHz.
7	Poor or no modulation	● Check to see if the microphone or MIC jack is defective. ● Check to see if U205 and/or its associated components are defective.
8	Deviation of transmit frequency	● Check the frequency of 20.950MHz crystal X2. ● Adjust VC2 and verify the transmit frequency.

DISASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

To disassembly, follow the procedures below:

- A. Unscrew the four screws of hand MIC.
- B. Unscrew the 6 screws of 2nd hand MIC.
- C. Unscrew 6 screws for the bottom cabinet of the main unit.

