

HF250 - Advance information



The Lowe HF250 is set to become the new world standard for mid-priced receivers. Building on from the world-wide success of our HF225 and HF150 models, the new HF250 combines Lowe's traditional high standards of performance and quality of construction together with the advanced facilities and control features required by today's discerning listener.

Features

- ◆ Frequency range from 30kHz to 30MHz
- ◆ Tuning step size 8Hz
- ◆ Back-lit display
- ◆ Display resolution now 100Hz
- ◆ 255 memory channels
- ◆ Memory channels also store frequency, mode, filter selection and attenuator setting
- ◆ Computer control is standard via built-in RS232 port
- ◆ RS232 reads to and from the radio for upload / down load of memory data

- ◆ Clock with two independent timers
- ◆ Fixed level output for decoding and tape recording
- ◆ Tape recorder switching output
- ◆ Fast tuning in 10kHz steps
- ◆ 1MHz up / down tuning
- ◆ Mode selector carousel

Options

- ◆ Infra red remote commander
- ◆ Synchronous detector
- ◆ Whip Amplifier
- ◆ DC lead
- ◆ RS232 control leads

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The HF250 has been designed with one purpose in mind; the ability to offer the short wave listener an HF receiver which has the performance potential of the best receivers on the market, but at a much more attractive price. We have concentrated on the real attributes which any HF receiver needs today - the reciprocal mixing and dynamic range. Thus we have a quiet receiver which has better overload characteristics than many other sets, which lets you hear the stations that are there, and not some intermodulation products generated within the equipment itself.

The tuning range is 30kHz to 30MHz without gaps. The tuning rate is determined by synthesiser design, and in the HF250 is basically 8 Hz steps - better than most receivers, and to help give the true "VFO feel", we've added a high quality optical encoder allowing a certain amount of "spin".

Turning the tuning dial faster will increase the step rate and we've added a new "fast tuning" button - simply hold this switch in during tuning and you'll be able to tune rapidly in 10kHz steps. We've retained the 1MHz UP / DOWN switches popular with HF225 owners allowing you to move around the frequency range quite quickly.

Probably the most requested features we've had were for an extra digit on the frequency display and for some form of illumination - so our new back-lit display now reads to 100Hz resolution! Frequency display in all modes is absolutely correct.

You'll also be able to tune your HF250 from the comfort of your armchair with our new IR250 infra-red remote commander. The IR250 Remote commander will allow you to change frequency either by direct entry or by up /down tuning controls. Memory channels can also be

programmed from the Commander and selected at random. Filters, attenuator and mode change can also be selected from the IR250.

All modes are available on the HF250, with AM, USB, LSB and CW as standard and with the optional DU250 detector board, NBFM and Synchronous AM are also available. The DU250 will also offer selectable sideband Synchronous Detection.

The HF250 comes with a comprehensive set of IF filters. For AM listening we have 10kHz allowing good fidelity from good, strong broadcast signals whilst 7kHz, and 4kHz, allows better selectivity for those who like to winkle out weak AM DX stations.

For the SSB listener, we've gone for 2.2kHz as being optimum for utility listening around the commercial aviation and maritime bands. It is also an ideal bandwidth for the many data modes now found on short wave. At the same time it is also narrow enough to sort out ham radio stations with a tendency to operate very close together!

The SSB filter can also be pressed into service whilst listening to AM signals suffering from severe interference. Although fidelity is reduced, it can still allow you to identify that elusive DX station!

For the CW listeners, we've also included a 200Hz audio filter for sharp reception of Morse code signals. Although this is an audio filter, performance is excellent.

All the filters for this impressive array of bandwidths are fitted as standard and included

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in the price, and are not expensive options. The optimum bandwidth is automatically selected to suit the mode in use, but the user can over-ride the selection and choose his own alternative, which the receiver remembers when mode changing.

The HF250 has a bank of 255 memories that store frequency, mode, filter setting and attenuator. It will also store the sync detector setting if the DU250 is installed. The contents of any memory can be reviewed at any time without stopping the receiver working on the existing frequency in use. If you wish to transfer the memory contents to the main display and listen to the memorised frequency, a single press of the "Recall" button will do just that.

A second way of using the memories is the "Channel" mode in which the memories can be scanned using the main tuning knob, with the receiver tuning to each memorised frequency as it appears on the display. Extremely versatile in use, and an example of the thought which has gone into the HF250.

All frequency information is shown on the main display, together with the filter status, attenuator status, and memory channel contents, and of course the clock display. Indication of mode and synchronous AM detector lock is shown by a series of small LEDs. The S-meter is also illuminated.

Computer control has become very popular in the last few years so we've included an RS232 interface in the HF250. This will allow selection of frequency, filters, attenuator and management of memory channels. The RS232 connector is a 9 pin D type and we have leads available to suit this and either 9 or 25 way types at the computer end. The commands are

fairly simple and control of the receiver can be accomplished using any terminal software. This also allows the HF250 to be controlled by any computer or terminal unit with RS232 output, rather than restricting it to one make of computer. No doubt the well known software writers will be developing drivers for the many control packages available today. If you are considering purchasing a computer for use with a receiver, give us a call for advice.

The record output socket has a fixed level, ideal for tape recording but now probably more used for providing input to software and hardware decoders, allowing reception of FAX, RTTY, Morse etc. For those who still like to tape, we've also added a remote tape recorder switch controlled by the internal timers to switch your tape recorder on or off.

The HF250 operates from 12VDC, and a mains power unit is included with the receiver. You can of course run it from a vehicle battery and an optional DC lead will be available with a cigar lighter connector.

If portable operation appeals, a further option available is an active whip aerial, the WA250; the pre-amplifier fitting inside the receiver, and the telescopic whip connecting to the coaxial aerial socket on the rear panel. The whip amplifier can also be used as a pre-amplifier for short wire aerials in difficult locations.

All in all, the HF250 is an amazing receiver, and is guaranteed to satisfy the genuine listening enthusiast who will appreciate its uncompromising performance. Call in at the better shortwave radio dealers, and try the HF250 out for yourself. You will not be disappointed.

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WHICHEVER WAY YOU LOOK AT IT,
YOU'RE GOING TO WANT THIS RADIO!



At the time of writing, the HF250 is still under development but in an advanced state of preparation. In line with our policy of continuous product development, we reserve the right to change any specifications and to add or delete any features mentioned in this advance brochure.

For this reason, we are not including any specifications at this stage. We feel it is misleading to quote specifications from hand-built prototypes. We prefer to prepare detailed specifications based on a samples of production models. However, our initial tests show that we have been able to improve on the performance of our HF225 in the areas of sensitivity and dynamic range. We think we've got another winner!

When we have specifications available, we will be re-printing this brochure and we will also update our Virtual Radio Store™ pages on the World Wide Web.

For those who subscribe to the Internet. Our Web pages can be found at <http://www.demon.co.uk/lowe/>

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