



TX23-.1s 70 CM ATV TRANSMITTER

USERS MANUAL



The TX23-.1s transmitter is designed to provide 50-100 milliwatts peak envelope power (sync tip) of video modulated RF in the 23 CM (1240-1300 MHz) amateur band on any of 4 switch selected frequencies - 1253.25, 1265.25, 1277.25, and 1289.25 MHz. For higher power, a Downeast Microwave 2330PA linear amplifier can be added.

Any licensed Technician class or higher Radio Amateur may operate this transmitter in accordance with 47 CFR part 97 of the FCC Rules and Regulations.

The TX23-.1s accepts U.S.A. standard composite video (1 volt pk-pk) from any source such as color or black and white cameras with video output or camcorders, VCR's, or DVR's for transmission. Audio from these sources or a low impedance dynamic mic is also transmitted on the 4.5 MHz sound subcarrier. Transmit / receive power and antenna switching is provided for a companion high sensitivity TVC-12s downconverter connected to a TV on channel 8 may be used to receive:

PLEASE read through this manual before plugging in an cables and attempting operation. Each connector and control is described here to enable your proper hookup and operation. Also the unique video practices associated with ATV and the 23 CM band are described. More information on ATV can be found on our Application Notes web page at www.hamtv.com.

TX23-.1s ATV Transmitter Quick Start

Place the transmitter on a flat surface with no other objects within 2 inches. This is important for convection cooling and running for periods of more than 10 minutes continuous key down.

Connect the red lead from the DC power jack to a good regulated 12 to 14 Vdc >1A power supply or battery directly and the black lead to negative or ground. Longer leads or junction boxes with other gear could put noise in the picture.

Connect a good low VSWR 33cm Antenna using low loss 50 Ohm coax to the antenna jack. Best not to use adaptors, but strictly N plugs with 420 MHz and above to minimize losses. If you have a RF power meter that is rated for 23cm, you can put it in the antenna coax line for the initial VSWR and system tests.

Select the local ATV frequency from the 5 available on the front panel channel switch. Make contact with a close by ATVer on the 2 meter coordination and talk back frequency to make sure the frequency or repeater is clear and have some one to comment on your tests. Watching yourself on another TV in the shack can give false results from overload or multipath.

Flip the Power switch to on and the green LED will light if you connected to the power supply correctly. Flip the XMIT/REC switch to XMIT and the green will go off (as well as the downconverter if connected) and the red LED and RF output will come on in 2-3 seconds. If driving an amplifier, verify that there is less than 10% reflected power within 15 seconds before further operation. If all is OK, do the linear amplifier ATV set up procedure. after that, you can plug in the camera video, line and or mic audio. Set the Mic and/or Line Audio gain as you speak normally at normal distance up to the point that the red LED winks off, then slightly back down. When the XMIT switch is on, you are still transmitting when the red LED winks off during audio over deviation peaks. Have the local ATVer talk your antenna rotation in for best picture via two meter voice.

Please read the detailed information on each connector and control that follows in this manual.

REAR PANEL:



POWER INPUT JACK. A 4 pin plug 2 ft cable is provided for connection to your source of +12 to 14 Vdc and to a downconverter. Current draw is <1A in transmit. Pin 1 is DC ground and a black wire. Pin 2 is + and red. A cable with a coaxial plug on the end connects to pins 3 (-) and 4 (+) to output to a downconverter in receive. Power coaxial plug is center +. The TX23-.1s works best from a well regulated voltage source with leads no longer than necessary. The transmitter is set up by us from a regulated 13.8 Vdc supply. Do not exceed 15 Vdc input. In case the voltage is reversed, there is a internal series diode to prevent damage to the unit. 16 v zeners on the sound and T/R relay boards should blow the internal 2A fuse if this voltage is exceeded.

Any ripple or noise on the DC line may be seen in the transmitted video. For this reason, if a single large power supply is used to power this and other equipment, all leads must connect directly at the power supply terminals, not to an external terminal block. If an external amp is added, it is best to run it from its own separate power supply.

DOWNCONVERTER POWER. A 2 ft cable is supplied with a 2.1 X 5.5 mm plug on the end to connect from this jack to a TVC downconverter. DC power (center is +) is at this jack when the XMIT / REC switch is in REC and open when in XMIT.

2 AMP FUSE INSIDE. The TX23-.1s itself draws less than .5 amp in transmit, and .1 amp plus external downconverter in receive - A 1.0 amp 3AG fuse should handle both.

EXT KEY JACK. Grounding the tip keys the transmitter. This jack is in parallel with the front panel transmit/receive (XMIT/REC) toggle switch and can be used to key the transmitter from an external switch to ground or key an amplifier as long as the amp is run from a 13.8V power supply.

50 OHM 33 CM ANTENNA. A UG21 type N plug is provided to attach to low loss .5" size 50Ω coax. Losses at 23 CM are very high in transmission lines. We suggest using the foam filled types such as Belden 8214, or semi rigid Belden 9913 or Times LMR400. Put the connector together properly, or buy a ready made cable. The type N connector has good moisture resistance and low loss at UHF but use two layers of vinyl tape or Coax Seal on all outside connections to prevent moisture contamination. The antenna and feed line are the most important part of your ATV system, and therefore the last item to just try and get by with.

If you are driving an amp, video plugged in and have a peak reading RF power meter, you will be reading the peak sync level and pep. With video plugged in and using an average reading meter, it will read less, and down to half with an all white picture, but sync tip power will still be the same as measured with a peak reading meter. This is the nature of cable analog NTSC or AM video transmission, similar to SSB voice peak and average RF power measurements with complex analog modulation.

On initial turn on, do not transmit more than 15 seconds if the reflected power is more than 10% or 2:1 VSWR. You could damage the final power FET. Also, VSWR or being too near your antenna can cause RF interference in your camera or buzz in the audio.

Use a good resonant broad bandwidth 23 CM antenna like the Directive Systems 2424LYARM, circularly polarized OAL 33/23 Helix, or homebrew antennas shown on our app note web page. Do not be tempted to just try it out with a rubber duckie, 2 meter antenna, or other antenna not specifically designed for the video carrier frequency. Place the antenna as high as practical, at least above the trees or roof tops.

75 OHMS TO MONITOR. This output provides the composite video from the front panel Video jack during receive to enable you to aim the camera and to best adjust the focus and lighting, etc. before transmitting. In transmit, there is no output. Use a RCA plug 75 Ohm shielded cable to connect to your video monitor or VCR video in.

50 OHMS TO ATV DOWNCONVERTER. This BNC output jack is connected to the antenna input of your 23 CM 1240-1300 MHz ATV downconverter. Downconverters for other bands are not connected to the TX23-.1s, but rather to their own antenna and left on when transmitting on 23cm for full duplex or crossband repeat. If a TVC-12s downconverter is used, a short 50 Ohm cable with a male BNC on one end and type N adaptor on the other is supplied. The TX23-.1s contains a T/R relay to switch the antenna input as well as DC power between the downconverter and the transmitter.

FRONT PANEL:



VIDEO GAIN control. This sets the white level or depth of modulation of the selected video source. In transmit, the knob should be slowly increased clockwise just to the point of white smearing or blooming as described back to you from a station located at least a quarter mile away. The distant ATV receiving station can describe your picture back to you over 2 meters.

VIDEO INPUT. This input accepts any standard NTSC 1Vp-p composite video into 75Ω from cameras, VCRs, computers, SSTV or RTTY converters, home satellite converters, etc. Use RCA phono plug and shielded cable (Radio Shack 15-1535) up to 12' or RG59 or RG-6 for longer runs. When unplugging, only twist clockwise to keep the jack from working loose over time.

LINE AUDIO INPUT. High level line audio usually from the same source as plugged into the companion Video input is plugged into this jack using another RCA phono plug shielded cable. Minimum level is .1 v pk-pk into a 10K load.

LINE AUDIO GAIN control varies the high level audio applied to the subcarrier from the front panel audio input RCA phono jack. Increase the level to the point where the red XMIT light winks off, and then back down the gain slightly. This audio is independent and mixed with the mic audio. This makes varying the level of a video tape audio verses mic for voice over comments easy. Peak deviation is set by an internal pot on the FMA5-G sound subcarrier board.

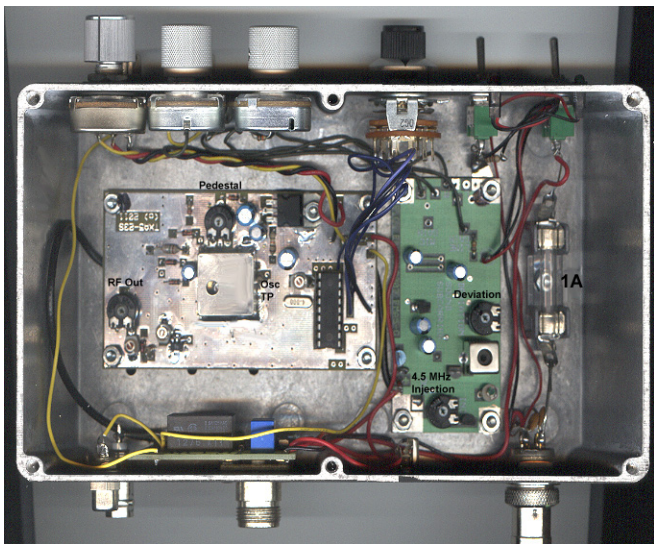
MIC jack accepts any low Z dynamic mic in the range of 100 - 600 Ohms with a mini plug. Mic audio is active at all times and mixes with the camera or VCR line audio input to give more direct pickup, commenting while running video tapes, etc. Mikes must have a shielded cable to prevent RF pickup hum and buzz. Unidirectional mics are suggested for full duplex to minimize speaker feedback or to reduce pickup of unwanted sounds and noise from the sides. Electret and amplified mics are very susceptible to RF pickup - buzz and should not be used.

MIC GAIN control varies the level of the low Z dynamic mic. It is independent of the line audio level. Speak directly into the microphone at the normal operating distance. Increase the level to the point where the red XMIT light winks off, and then back down the gain slightly. There is a volume compressor that will keep the audio at the standard 25 kHz deviation and 40 kHz peaks. Audio usually drops out about the same time as color does in a snowy picture - P3 - depending on the TV sets audio IF gain and limiting.

CHANNEL SWITCH. This model has 4 synthesized channels and are the same as our TVC-12s downconv.:
1 - Not used
2 - 1253.25 MHz
3 - 1265.25 MHz
4 - 1277.00 MHz
5 - 1289.25 MHz

XMIT/REC switch. It is in parallel with the EXT KEY jack. The red lamp above this switch will light whenever you are in the transmit mode and the audio inputs are making <40 kHz peak deviation. There is a delay of 2 to 3 seconds for this LED to light and the RF output to come up. In receive, the applied + voltage appears on the downconverter power jack to power a TVC-12s 23CM ATV downconverter.

POWER ON switch turns on the applied +12 to 14 Vdc to the TX23-.1s. If the green light does not come on, check the fuse, polarity and determine why it blew before replacement.



INTERNAL:

Also reference the wiring diagram on page 5.

AUDIO DEVIATION. Peak deviation is controlled by a pot on the FMA5-G board for no more than 40kHz or 25 kHz average. If you don't have a communication monitor tuned to 4.5 MHz above the video carrier, you can come close by comparing the sound level with a cable broadcast channel.

EXTERNAL LINEAR AMPLIFIER SET UP. There are specific model amplifier application notes on our web site and why some work on ATV and others do not. Basically, they all setup in the same way.

1. With no video source plugged in, turn the RF power pot on the TXA5 board to its minimum power position (CCW). Turn the Pedestal pot to full CCW. No video plugged in. Make sure the amp is rated to be linear class A, AB or B and is connected to a good 50 Ohm dummy load or low vswr antenna (less than 10% reflected).

2. Turn on the amp and transmitter. Slowly increase the TXA5 board RF output to no more than 90% of the amplifiers rated power output level. For instance if the amp is rated at 30 Watts, set the RF output for 27 Watts. This will be the sync tip or peak envelope power. Then set the Pedestal pot for 55% to 60% of this pep. In our example this would be between $27 \times .6 = 16.2$ Watts and $27 \times .55 = 14.8$ Watts.

3. Plug the camera back in and have a distant station on two meters talk back to check your picture to make sure you have done the pedestal and sync tip set up correctly. There should be no instability or rolling from sync compression. An average reading RF power meter will read the pedestal power when no video is plugged in. With video in, the average reading meter will show less power even though the sync tip and pedestal power will be constant. An all white picture will show a little less than half pep.

OPERATING NOTES: ATV practices are somewhat different from the other bands and modes. Another ham near you to look for your video transmission will need to connect a 23cm downconverter to a TV set on channel 3 and have a roof top 23cm antenna of the same polarity. Best if they talk back to you on 2 meters. See our ATV Application Notes web page for info on making a 23cm ground plane or simple beams if they do not have one. Many ATV contacts are initiated by calling or listening on an area 2 meter FM simplex ATV coordination frequency (146.43 in 434.0 areas, and 144.34 in 439.25 transmit video areas due to the 3rd harmonic relationship). Since we must use directional antennas to make up for the 26 dB higher noise floor difference compared to NBFM due to bandwidth (15 kHz vs. 3 MHz), the probability of someone pointing their beam at you while at the same time you at them and calling CQ is very low.

Two meters, even for FM, has about 15 dB less path loss than 23CM so that all possible ATVers can be received on 2 meter FM using just an omni antenna. You will find with experience the correlation between 2 meter simplex and 23CM ATV. It is much easier for all local ATVers to monitor a squelched 2 meter FM simplex channel than to try tuning and swinging the 23CM beam looking for sync bars. Once another ATVer comes up on 2 meters, you can roughly swing the beams on each other before turning on the ATV transmitter. Then, if the picture is better than 20% snow, the video transmitting station can talk on the sound subcarrier, and all those receiving him can talk back at the same time on 2 meters (full duplex) to comment on picture content, etc. Others listening to the 2 meter channel are often hooked into ATV this way. You can also run full duplex audio and video with another station on the 420 or 902 MHz bands.

It is more fun as time goes on to have many hams put their families, other hobbies, and varied interests on the screen. Let others know your 2 meter ATV freq. by publishing in local radio clubs newsletters, contact your local ARRL SCM, or pick a night and time to start an ATV net. The TX23-.1s is portable enough to give a little demo at your local radio club or hamfest.

IF YOU BELIEVE THE TX23-.1s ISN'T WORKING, check all cables and connections, internal fuse and 16V protection zener, VSWR, power supply and DC voltages at the boards. Then call or email us and describe the problem or ask any questions you might have. It will save us both time and money if we suggest some things to try that may have been overlooked, or for us to better evaluate the problem. The TX23-.1s can be repaired by us for \$80 plus parts cost in a few days if we believe the problem is customer caused or nothing wrong. If we determine that it was due to our workmanship and materials within a reasonable time and given circumstances then your cost is only the shipping to us. However the repair and service policy stated in our latest catalog will supercede the general policy listed here. Include with the unit a filled out *Return Authorization Form* - download from our web site. Normal turn around is 2 days after we receive it. There is no other warranty expressed or implied. We believe this policy is more realistic than the usual 90 day warranty other amateur manufacturers have since various parts have different expected lifetimes.

