

USER REPORT

Bext's Lex 30 Has 3-in-1 Appeal

by **Don Hobson**
Retired Broadcast Engineer

SAN DIEGO I have retired as an engineer at KJQY(FM); but when I heard about Bext's Lex 30, the new frequency-agile FM transmitter, I called them up to see if I could test it out of personal interest.

My findings? Price, performance and features. It is not often that you can get all three in the same package. But long-time radio/television supplier Bext has come up with a winner in its Lex 30.

external composite or monaural and turn the limiter on or off. An RS-232 DB9 female connector for direct or modem serial communication is available on the front panel.

Now to the performance.

Let's say you are an all-digital plant. You can keep your audio in the digital domain all the way to the exciter and then use the built-in stereo generator to modulate the transmitter. Yes, it is that good. Still have an all-analog setup? Feed your audio processing directly into the composite input. Need a



Bext's Lex 30

Industrial power supply, cooling fan, stereo generator, peak clipper, stable modulated oscillator and power amplifier easily combine into 1 RU. It is designed well and laid out nicely.

A two-line LCD display provides front-panel controlled functions. Except for the internal slide switch for 120/240 V operation, there are no adjustments necessary with any cover removed.

Functions

Eleven menu-based functions are provided. You can check operating frequency, adjust forward power and observe reflected power. You can set frequency in 10 kHz increments. The unit lets you observe right and left peak input levels with a visual 100 percent point, unclipped modulation level, clipped modulation level when limiter is on and peak clipper action.

Users can set input impedance to 600 or 10 k ohms. Inputs can be unbalanced through a BNC connector or balanced/unbalanced through XLR connectors. You also can set input sensitivity level from -6 dB to +6dB and pre-emphasis at 75 microseconds, 50 microseconds or flat as well as activate internal stereo generator, select

monaural feed for use as a translator or other low-power feed? It's all here, with no accessories needed or rewiring required.

For testing, I hooked a CD player up to the left and right audio inputs. Levels were easily set with the peak reading meters that clearly display the 100-percent point. The results were clean and flat. Radio should always sound this good.

Needless to say, I was impressed. What you put in is what you will get back; and with so many options you should have no trouble achieving the results you want.

Stainless-steel chassis and some artistically designed rack handles complete the solid, well-built feel of the product. This, along with Bext's two-year warranty and introductory pricing well below the \$2,000 mark, make this a package that everyone should be able to afford. Whether a large-market radio station, a contract engineer for a number of FM stations in the area or just starting off in the field, this product will satisfy everyone's needs.

For more information, including pricing, contact the company in California at (888) 239-8462 or visit www.bext.com.