

Amateur voice switch user instructions

Over the next few weeks and months I will be testing my amateur voice switch on GB3DY, GB3EE, 430.025Mhz and 51.950Mhz

If you hear the switch on air you are definitely encouraged to 'have a go', if it breaks then please don't worry, it's probably my fault and the more you break it the better chance I have to make it stable.

If you do feel brave enough to 'have a go' here is how.

You will need a radio with DTMF, or a DTMF mic (DTMF is also sometimes called 'Touchtone')

On the repeaters and 430.025 you will also need 71.9Hz CTCSS encode.

When the switch is on air I will try to stick to the following numbering.

430.025	Port	1
GB3EE	Port	2
51.950	Port	3
GB3DY	Port	4

To connect to any port dial *001X* where 'X' is the port number.

If successful you will get a fast Morse 'C' confirming connected. (dah-di-dah-dit)

Once you are connected the switch should be pretty well transparent, whatever is received on one channel will go out on the other.

Activity and inactivity timeouts of 4 minutes are in place; this means that after 4 minutes of constant receiving or 4 minutes without any traffic an auto disconnect will be generated.

To manually disconnect at any time dial *0010* disconnection will be confirmed by a fast Morse 'D'. (dah-di-dit)

If you dial an invalid port number or dial a port already busy on a call you will hear a Morse 'ERR' (dit di-dah-dit di-dah-dit)

Finally a special port number 9 is provided.

If you dial *0019* from any port you will be connected to the conference bridge, which will allow you to talk to any other channels connected to the bridge in a 'one talks all hear' conference call.

A few notes on switch 'etiquette'

It makes sense to use the switch only when necessary to make a contact.

For example if 2 users are within the coverage of 2 repeaters they should have their QSO on 1 of them, rather than networking the 2 together.

However if you are struggling to find a contact on one repeater connecting 2 together will double your chances and if both repeaters are idle will do nobody any harm.

If you make a connection, when you are finished you should check if anybody wants the connection and if not disconnect. This prevents unsuspecting users who arrive some minutes later from being surprised to find that they are using 2 repeaters!

You should never disconnect an active connection whilst it is being used by somebody else, this is obviously very rude and could be regarded as deliberate interference, which is technically illegal (check your BR68).

Hopefully I will continue to improve the switch performance with time as development continues.

Status as 3/3/06 is that ports 1,2,3 and 4 are available.

I'll be negotiating with Ofcom over the next few weeks to get GB3RB added to the NOV.