Wireless for the Warrior - Volume 4

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Version A (above): Both units were coupled via two hinges and a single permanently fitted flexible cable.

Version B (below): Two separate units connected via 25-p D connector.



R-353L Country of origin: Russia

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: USSR and Warsaw Pact countries. Design/Manufacturer: USSR. Year of Introduction: 1988.

Purpose: Agents and possibly special forces.

. Receiver:

Circuit details: Triple conversion superheterodyne. Synthesiser control. CW and AM R/T.

Frequency coverage: 3-19.999MHz in 1kHz steps. Transmitter:

Circuit details: Synthesiser control. CW, FSK and MCW. **Frequency coverage:** 3-23.999MHz in 1kHz steps. **RF output:** No less than 45W.

Aerial: Separate wire aerials for transmit and receive. **Power Supply:** 100-240V 5–60Hz AC mains or 12V DC.

Size (cm): Height 33.4, length 10.5, width 40.7.

Weight: R-353-L 12kg; power pack 10.5 kg.

Accessories: Operator's lamp, Morse key, AC and DC power cables, miniature earphone, transmitter and receiver wire aerials in lengths of 4 and 8M, counterpoise, AC mains power unit and accumulator pack.

References:

- Photographs, scans and information courtesy Detlev Vreisleben, DC7KG, Germany.

Photo of R-353 courtesy Crypto Museum, Holland.

REMARKS

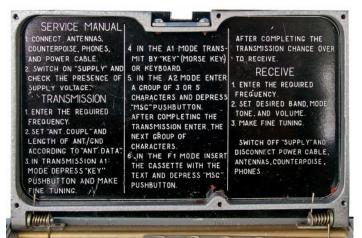
The R-353L was a compact fully transistorised transmitter-receiver developed and produced in the USSR. The transmitter with its 45W, combined with a wide frequency range, was suitable for very long range communications by agents and probably diplomatic missions abroad (hence the English text for the controls on the front panel), and special forces. Included was a programmable high speed keyer capable of transmitting 416 groups of 5 numbers per minute. Two different versions are known to exist of which the actual transmitter-receiver appeared identical: a single unit 'A' version of which both units were coupled by fixed hinges and a two unit 'B' version.



It may be speculated that the R-353L was a much later follow-up of the R-353. (shown above)

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Condensed operating procedure and transmitter tuning settings plates were located on both sides of a hinged panel on the transmitter unit.



Close up view of frequency readout and part of the encoder number keys and display.

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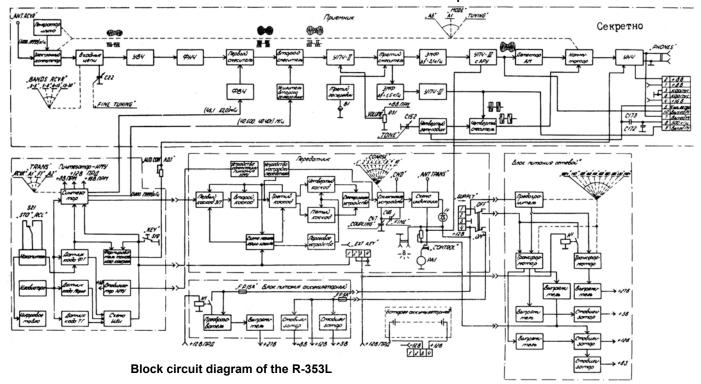
The R-353L was comprised of a receiver/synthesiser (lower unit), and the controls and transmitter unit located in the upper unit. An AC mains power unit or an accumulator pack could fitted under under the transmitter unit. The set could also be powered from an external 12V battery. The A and B versions differed basically only in another type of enclosure. The set had several elements in its design, construction and operation which were similar to the R-394KM, a set developed in the same period.



Stored data was saved in the memory, powered by two back-up batteries which were located under a hinged panel on the transmitter unit along with an operator's lamp.



Enclosure of R-353L version A. Note the AC mains voltage selector in a round recess of the clip-on mains power unit. A separate accumulator pack of almost similar dimensions could be fitted in place of the mains power unit.



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