

DR4B Base Station Data Radio Circuitry



The DR4B Base Station Data Radio works within the frequency range of 400-512 MHz.

The following section provides detail views, descriptions, and key areas on the DR4B Base Station Data Radio circuit board especially useful during troubleshooting.

System Controller

This section displays the Central Processing Unit (CPU)(U1), clock, and power-on reset circuitry. It provides more processing power than required for future capabilities to be incorporated into the radio without changing processors. Such capabilities include data encryption/decryption (DES), remote fault monitoring, etc. U1 features a 16-bit address bus and 128K of internal flash random access memory (RAM). To enter the programming mode it is necessary to reset the switch (S1) and power up again.

CPU operations are controlled by Y2 an 4.9152 MHz clock module. Capacitor (C1) and an internal Schmidt trigger circuit inside of U1 generates the power on reset signal. The RESET* output from U1 drives a latch and decoder found elsewhere on the board.

This section displays the RAM, decoder, EEPROM, and programming power supply circuitry. U2 is a 512K x 8 bit static RAM chip, which provides temporary storage of radio configuration data while the power is on. This is necessary in order to program the radio configuration. U2 is controlled directly by the address, data, and control busses from the CPU.

Chip U5 decodes the A11-A14 address bus to provide chip selects for the modem and EEPROM memory. Chip U6 is an 8-bit latch. It latches inputs from the D0-D7 bus and lights the front panel status indicators (TX, CD, RX1, RX2, and RX3).

Chip U3 is a serial EEPROM, which provides 2K bits of pre-programmed data storage for the CPU. Data is clocked out of U3 by EECLK, and back into the CPU via EEDATA.

A programming power supply is required for the flash RAM inside of the CPU, and this function is performed by U4. This chip is an adjustable voltage regulator with a shutdown control. Resistors R8 and R9 set the output voltage. When the radio configuration data is to be stored in flash RAM, the CPU makes VPP_ENABLE high. This turns on the regulator, producing a 12-volt output via VPP for the flash RAM.

This section displays a dedicated processor and voltage regulator. Chip U7 is an optional processor, which permits manual keyboard operation of the radio. It is not used, and may not be installed on the board. Regulator U10 provides 5 volts DC power for all logic circuitry on the System Controller Board.

Input/Output

This section displays the CPU input/output circuitry. Chip U11 is an RS232 transmitter/receiver, which interfaces the CPU to the Diversity Reception Board via J6. From there, the RS232 data goes directly to a rear panel DB25 connector. U11 converts 5-volt logic-level data to +/-12 volt data in RS232C form, and vice-versa. A charge pump power supply on the chip converts the +5 volt DC power to the +/-12 volt levels required. The charge pump uses capacitors (C28 to C31) to generate voltages.

The RS232 serial port data transmission rate of the base station is 115.2 KBPS.

Modem Switching

This section displays the connector wiring and modem switching circuitry. Connector J2 is routed to the front-panel TX, CD, and RX1-RX3 LED indicators. The radio will also accept modulation from an external source (modem or amplified microphone audio).

Modem

This base station uses separate modems for receive and transmit functions so that full-duplex operation may be obtained. The A0-A1 address bus in addition to the individual read (RD*), write (WR*), and chip select (MODEMTXCS*) lines control all three (3) modems. Modem operations are timed by Y2, a 4.9152 MHZ clock module.

Modem chip U14 is dedicated to the transmit operation. Data from the D0-D7 bus is read by the chip, and then converted to a 4-level FSK analog signal, which appears on the TXOUT pin. Op amp U21B buffers the signal, which becomes the MODEM_TXMOD output. From this point, the signal is routed to the modulation circuitry on the Exciter Board.

Chip U14 has the ability to demodulate receiver audio, although this capability is not used in most systems. Incoming data-bearing audio from the Diversity Reception Controller Board (and selected receiver) appears at DISC_AUDIO. The signal passes through resistor R54 and into the modem chip. Resistor R52 and capacitor C41 serve as feedback elements, limiting both the gain and bandwidth of an amplifier within U14. The modem chip demodulates the audio into 8 bits of data, which exit U14 on the D0-D7 bus.

Chip U14 also provides a bias voltage for the analog circuitry on the Exciter Board. This voltage is about 2.5 volts DC, and it appears on the VBIAS line. The purpose of VBIAS is to bias the Exciter Board analog circuitry for proper operation. Please note that if this voltage is low or missing, the Exciter Board circuitry may not work.

Modem chip U15 is dedicated to the receive operation. Incoming data-bearing audio from the Diversity Reception Controller Board (and selected receiver) appears at DISC_AUDIO. The signal passes through resistor R56 and into the modem chip. Resistor R55 and capacitor C46 serve as feedback elements, limiting both the gain and bandwidth of an amplifier within U15. The modem chip breaks down the audio into 8 bits of data, which exit U15 on the D0-D7 bus.

Modem chip U16 is also dedicated to the receive operation, although it may not be used in this application. The operation of U16 is exactly the same as U15.

Diversity Reception Controller Board

This section displays the power supply circuitry and input/output connector wiring. The power supply consists of a diode (CR1), metal oxide varistor (MOV) (CR2), a fuse (F1), and voltage regulators (VR2 and VR3). 13.8 volts DC from the radio's power connector appears on the anode of CR1. CR1 provides reverse polarity protection, while CR2 absorbs any damaging transient spikes, which appear on the unregulated supply line. F1 provides over-current protection. The SWB+ output powers the remaining boards in the radio, with the exception of the power amplifier module. VR2 provides a 5-volt DC source for all of the circuitry on the Diversity Reception Controller Board. VR3 provides 5 volts DC for the three receiver boards via a connector (TB1).

Two (2) 16-pin DIP headers connect this board to the System Controller Board. One header (J2) provides power and control signals for the System Controller Board. The ALARMA and ALARMC

lines are of particular interest because the base station has optional external fault monitoring capabilities. For example, if a fault in the base station site produces a contact closure on one of the alarm inputs, the radio transmits a fault message to the Communication Center. Examples of faults include site door open, high temperature, high VSWR, etc. Upon receipt of the fault message, a technician is dispatched to the base station site to correct the fault. In order to obtain these capabilities, monitoring software must be loaded into the System Controller Board CPU and the Internet Protocol Network Controller (IPNC).

Another header (J1) routes RS232 data, clock, and handshake signals from the System Controller Board to DB25 interface connector (J3). This connector is physically mounted on the rear panel of the base station.

This section displays the level shifters for the three (3) receivers. Each receiver provides a DC voltage received signal strength indication (RSSI) corresponds to the signal strength of an incoming signal. The RSSI output from receiver 1 appears at RSSI1. It passes through low pass filter R13 and C16. The low pass filter capacitor (C16) minimizes RF pickup by the op amp. An op amp (U11B) provides amplification and a DC level shift. An additional op amp (U11C) provides additional amplification. Resistors (R3 and R4) and a pot (R11) set gain of the op amp. The DC offset is injected into U11C via a pot (R12) and a resistor (R5). The amplified and level shifted output leaves the op amp as SHIFT_RSSI1 and goes to a comparator circuit.

The remaining level shifters work in the same manner.



Individual gain and DC offset pots are provided so that minor RSSI performance differences between the three receivers can be trimmed out.

Receive Signal Strength Indication Comparator

This section displays the RSSI comparator circuitry. It uses a two-step selection process to determine which receiver has the strongest signal, as follows:

- The receiver 1 and receiver 2 RSSIs are compared, and the strongest receiver is selected.
- The selected receiver's RSSI and receiver 3 RSSI are compared, and the strongest is selected. The circuitry provides two (2) digital outputs and an analog RSSI voltage from the selected receiver.

A comparator (U5) looks at the RSSI1 and RSSI2 inputs. When RSSI1 is greater than RSSI2, the comparator output goes high, and a LED (D1) lights to indicate receiver 1 was selected. At the same time, the RX1/RX2_SELECT line goes high, which activates the solid-state switch (U8). This causes the receiver 1 RSSI signal to be routed to a second comparator. Otherwise, if the receiver 2 RSSI is greater than receiver 1, the RX1/RX2_SELECT line goes low, and another LED (D2) lights to indicate receiver 2 was selected. U8 simply routes receiver 2 RSSI to a second comparator (U10). The digital RX1/RX2_SELECT output controls a switch.

U10 looks at the selected receiver (RSSI1/RSSI2) and RSSI3 inputs. Should RSSI3 be greater than the other input, the comparator output goes high, and LED (D3) lights to show receiver 3 is selected. At the same time, another switch (U6) connects RSSI3 to the analog SEL_RSSI output. The digital RX3_SELECT output controls a switch. Otherwise, if the selected receiver's RSSI is greater than RSSI3, the comparator output remains low making the RX3_SELECT output low. U6 simply connects the selected receiver's analog RSSI signal to the SELRSSI output.

A chip (U3) forms a comparator circuit. When the RSSI voltage exceeds a threshold, a LED (D4) lights. Like the other three (3) LEDs, this circuit is intended as a diagnostic tool. It provides a go/no go indication that an RF signal has been received. A pot (R74) sets the turn-on voltage.

Baseband

This circuitry amplifies the audio from each receiver, routes it through solid-state switches, and selects the audio from the receiver with the highest quality value. The comparator circuit on the previous sheet controls it.

There are three (3) channels of audio, with separate gain and DC offset adjustments to compensate for performance differences in the receivers. For example, incoming audio from receiver 1 appears at AUDIO 1. An op amp (U12D) is then amplifies the audio. A pot (R72) adjusts the gain. The amplifier output drives a switch (U4).

The remaining audio circuits work in the same manner.

Two (2) solid-state switches route audio from the selected receiver. U4 selects audio from either Receiver 1 or 2. When the RX1/RX2_SELECT input from the comparator circuitry is high, Receiver 1 audio is passed through the device. Another switch (U7) selects audio from either a selected Receiver (1 or 2) or receiver 3. When the RX3_SELECT input from the comparator circuitry is high, Receiver 3's audio is passed through the device. The output from U7 appears on DISC_AUD, which goes to a header (J2). From there the audio is demodulated by the modems on the System Controller Board.

The radio also offers a voice grade audio output via the rear panel DB25 connector. DISC_AUD also drives low pass filter (U14), and buffer (U9D). The AUDIO OUT line from the buffer goes to pin 12 of a connector (J3).

This section displays manual receiver switching and DC power distribution. Manual receiver switching is primarily intended as a diagnostic tool. By closing various switches on S1, the RX1/RX2_SELECT or RX3_SELECT LINES may be forced high or low, as appropriate. This overrides the operation of the comparator circuitry, forcing one receiver to operate at all times. Resistors (R98 and R97) provide power supply short circuit protection in the event the wrong switches are closed.

Pads (TP4 and TP5) represent the power distribution bus (TP4 and TP5). Incoming power from the rear panel fuse holder appears on pad TP4. The B+ output goes to the power supply circuitry. TP5 connects to the transmitter power amplifier.

Receiver Board



Please be aware that the radio uses three (3) identical receiver boards. As a result, the circuitry will be described only once.

Front end. Incoming signals pass through a filter (FT1). The filter (FT1) is a double-tuned device, which provides a high degree of selectivity. The desired signals are amplified by U4, a low noise amplifier. Additional selectivity is provided by triple-tuned filter (FT2). An RF amplifier (Q1) amplifies the signal. The output from Q1 passes through triple-tuned filter (FT3), and then to mixer (U5). U5 is a double-balanced mixer, which heterodynes a local oscillator signal from the Injection Synthesizer Board. The IF output leaves the mixer as the 45 MHz line. It goes to an IF filter on the following sheet.



There are five (5) filter sets (FT1, FT2, and FT3) available, and each covers a 20-30 MHz portion of the UHF band. Should replacement of the filters be required, exact replacement parts must be used.

IF Amplifier

The incoming 45 MHz signal passes through Y5, a highly selective monolithic bandpass filter. From there the IF signal passes through an LC matching network. C17, C18, C24, and L5 provide impedance matching to the IF amplifier input. U6 is a super heterodyne IF subsystem. Inside the chip, the signal is applied to a mixer. The mixer also accepts a 44.545 MHz local oscillator input. The local oscillator consists of an internal amplifier, plus crystal (Y4) and associated components. The mixer output passes through Y3, a 455 KHz ceramic IF filter. It is amplified, passed through ceramic filter (Y2), and on to a second IF stage. The IF output drives a quadrature detector. The recovered audio appears at pin 9, while RSSI appears at pin 7.

Within the RSSI circuitry, chip U6 uses a detector, which converts if the current is generated inside the chip into a DC level corresponding logarithmically to signal strength. RSSI is used by the Diversity Reception Controller to select the receiver with the highest quality signal.

The audio is buffered by op amp U3A. From there the AUDIO output line goes to a connector, for hookup to the Diversity Reception Controller Board.

The RSSI is buffered by op amp U3B. From there the RSSI output line goes to a connector, for hookup to the Diversity Reception Controller Board.



Several sets of 455 KHz IF filters (Y3 and Y2) are available to suit receiver selectivity requirements. Should replacement of these filters be required, exact replacement parts must be used.

Receiver Injection



The Injection Synthesizer Board provides a highly stable local oscillator signal for the three receivers. A synthesizer on the board develops the signal.

This displays a serial data input/output interface, synthesizer, and VCO. The I/O interface circuitry accepts clock, serial data, and enable signals from the System Controller Board via terminal block TB1. A lock detect (LD) status output is returned to the System Controller Board from the synthesizer. U3 is a hex Schmidt Trigger inverter, which squares up incoming signals for reliable operation of the synthesizer chip. This is necessary because of a cable run between the two (2) boards.

The main section of this board is synthesizer chip (U2). The device contains the key components of a phase locked loop (PLL), including a 1.1 GHz prescaler, programmable divider, and phase detector. In operation, the desired frequency is loaded into U2 as a clocked serial bit stream via the CLK and DATA/I inputs. The lock detection circuitry consists of inverters U3E/U3F, diode CR3, and resistor R5. When the synthesizer is in lock, the LD pin on U2 is high, making the LD output on terminal block TB1 high. The EXC LD input on TB1 routes the lock detect output from the Exciter Board through diode CR3, and out through LD. This configuration tells the CPU on the System Controller Board that it is acceptable to process received data, or to key the transmitter when LD is high. Otherwise, if a fault in either synthesizer prevents a lock, receive and transmit operation will be inhibited.

The UHF injection signal is generated by module VCO1. This device is a wide-range voltage controlled oscillator (VCO). A voltage on the VT input determines the VCO frequency. The voltage is generated by the phase detector output (PD/O) of U2, which drives a loop filter consisting of R4, C19, C20, R21 and C10. The filter integrates the pulses, which normally appear on PD/O into a smooth DC control signal for the VCO. The output of VCO1 is attenuated by module AT1, resulting in improved VCO stability.

This section displays the DC power supplies, frequency reference, and RF output circuitry. Regulator VR1 provides 9 volts DC for VCO module VCO1, and RF amplifier (U7). Regulator (VR2) provides a low noise 5-volt DC output for inverter (U3), synthesizer (U2), and reference (Y1).

Reference module (Y1) provides a high-stability 10 MHz reference frequency. Y1 is a voltage controlled, temperature controlled crystal oscillator (VCTCXO). This device also has a VC input which accepts a control voltage from pot R23. The pot permits a slight shift in the reference frequency which enables the three (3) receivers to be tuned precisely to the assigned receive frequency. A diode (CR2) provides additional voltage regulation, improving the frequency stability of reference Y1.

The RF output circuitry consists of RF amplifier (U7), and power splitters (U5 and U6). U7 increases the signal level to correct for losses in the splitters. One output drives splitter U5, which provides local oscillator injection for Receivers 2 and 3. The other output drives splitter (U6), which drives receiver 1 and the PLL_FEEDBACK input on chip U2.

Exciter Board

This section displays the input/output interface, transmitter keying, and power supply circuitry. The input/output interface is built around terminal block (TB1) and Schmidt Trigger inverters (U7). Incoming clock, serial data, and chip select signals on block TB1 are squared up by U7. Then they are sent to the appropriate inputs on the transmitter synthesizer (U2). The EXCDATA source comes from the receive synthesizer on the Injection Synthesizer Board. A Schmidt Trigger chip is used here because of a cable ran to the System Controller Board. The synthesizer returns a lock detect output to the Injection Synthesizer Board via U6 and EXCLD.

A regulator (VR2) powers the T/R switch circuitry. When the System Controller Board makes TXKEY* low, inverter U6D goes high, turning on transistor Q2 and FET Q1. This applies 5-volt power to the TXENABLE output, turning on the T/R switch on the Power Amplifier Board. At the same time, transistor Q3 conducts, grounding the KEY* input of the Power Amplifier Board. Finally, inverter U6C goes high and turns on RF switch U1, connecting the VCO output to the Power Amplifier Board for transmission.

The power supply consists of two (2) voltage regulators. A regulator (VR1) provides 5-volt power for the VCO.

Analog Modulation

This section displays the analog modulation circuitry. Incoming modem audio from the System Controller Board appears at TXMOD, and is buffered by op amp U5C. If an external modulation source (modem or amplified microphone) is connected to the base station's DB25 connector, audio appears at EXTMOD. From there the audio passes through low pass filters U10, U4DCBA, and on to the input of op amp U5B. The audio is inverted and amplified by an op amp (U5B). It then passes on to the VCO module via VCOMOD.

The 10 MHz reference is also modulated in order to counteract the corrective effects of the synthesizer loop circuitry. For example, if only the VCO were modulated, the synthesizer would try to compensate for the frequency "error," caused by the modulation. This effectively reduces the amount of modulation available. Modulating the reference and the VCO simultaneously effectively cancels this effect when the reference frequency goes high, the VCO frequency goes high, and vice-versa.

An op amp (U9A) amplifies the AUDIO output from another op amp (U5D) and applies it to jumper block JMP1. Pot R30 adjusts the gain of U9A. Op amp (U9B) inverts the phase of the audio and applies it to the other side of jumper block JMP1. The purpose of the jumper block is to select the proper phase of the audio. If the wrong phase is used, on modulation peaks the reference will swing in the same direction as the VCO, canceling out most of the modulation. The output from the jumper block goes to the 10 MHz reference via REFMOD.

The VBIAS input is a 2.5-volt DC source, which biases the op amps to the correct operating point. It is generated by modem chip (U14) on the System Controller Board.

Phase Locked Loop

This section displays phase locked loop (PLL) circuitry. The 10-MHz reference (Y1), runs synthesizer (U2), which in turn controls VCO1. The main section of this board is the synthesizer chip (U2). The device contains the key components of a PLL, including a 1.1 GHz prescaler, programmable divider, and phase detector.

In operation, the desired frequency is loaded into U2 as a clocked serial bit stream via the CLK and DATA/I inputs. The lock detection circuitry consists of inverters U6A and U6B, diode CR1, and resistor R1. When the synthesizer is in lock, the LD pin on U2 is high, making the EXCLD output on terminal block (TB1) high. The EXCLD output on TB1 routes the lock detect output from the Exciter Board. This configuration tells the CPU on the System Controller Board that it is acceptable to process received data, or to key the transmitter when LD is high. Otherwise, if a fault in either synthesizer prevents a lock, receive and transmit operation will be inhibited.

The switch (JMP1) is used to select the supply voltage to chip U2. The UHF injection signal is generated by module VCO1. This device is a wide-range voltage controlled oscillator (VCO). A voltage on the VT input determines the VCO frequency. The voltage is generated by the phase detector output (PD/O) of U2, which drives a loop filter consisting of R19, C16, C17, and C47. The filter integrates the pulses, which normally appear on PD/O into a smooth DC control signal for the VCO. The output of VCO1 is attenuated by module AT2, resulting in improved VCO stability.

Amplifier U8 amplifies the signal and applies it to a splitter (U3). One output of U3 is connected to a switch (U1). U1 is enabled by signal TX when the transmitter is enabled. The other output of the splitter is connected through AT1 and provides feedback to U2.

Power Amplifier

The transmit injection signal from the RF injection section is applied to the high-powered linear amplifier (U1) one (1) watt amplifier. The signal is then routed to the final power amplifier boosting the output signal to 40 watts. The output of the amplifier is routed to transmit antenna port ANT1 (via SW1).