

## FBB RS 232 MUX

In order to solve the night mare of the COM1-2 extension on PC's, Jean-Paul F6FBB has found elegant and cost sounding the use of a RS232 multiplexer. The design was made to handle four ports from one standard PC COM port.

The FBB software communicate with the TNC's WA8DED firmware by interrogation (polling mode). It is therefore straightforward to implement a system where the RS232 corresponding to the polled TNC is connected to the COM port of the PC. The switching is made before the query is sent and the selected mux port remains active up to the end of the TNC's answer. Then the next TNC is polled and so on. The mechanism of the port selection is built into the FBB driver specific to this operation, that could be enabled by configuration in PORT.SYS.

Schematics and components list can be obtained through :

A T E P R A  
23 rue de Provins  
77520 MONS EN MONTAIS (France)

Although no paiement is required, a contribution to cover copy and postage i.e., 5FFrs(in stamps) for France or 2USD elsewhere would be appreciated.

ATEPRA, French packet society, Association Technique pour l'Experimentation du Packet RadioAmateur, has made the art work and the production of a printed circuit board for the construction of the FBB Mux. The PC boards are made at top quality standards. They are double sided, plated holes, coated with reserves, silk screened for components location and references. As an ultimate quality insurance, boards are individually tested on a computerized bench for continuity and isolation of all connections.

Components used throughout the design are common parts available at all electronics parts stores. As there is a very limited number of components and with the use of connectors directly fitted to the board, the mux is easy to build and can be assembled in almost half an hour.

PC boards for the RS232 Mux are readily available and can be acquired at ATEPRA, address as above.

Price for France is 170 FFrs and USD 40 outside, both including shipment. Please send notes in a dark envelope and bear with us, this would greatly ease the process!