

## RADIOFAX - [radiofax.org](http://radiofax.org) - PROGRAMME TRANSCRIPT

[Eddie Caffrey recalls Radiofax Automated Frequency Change Transmitter](#) - 2 minutes.

Eddie Caffrey (Boyneside Radio, Radio Rainbow, Radiofax, LMFM) recalls the County Louth phase of Radiofax (11 August - 31 December 1988) and Trevor Brook's automated transmitter, switching between 6205kHz daytime and 1611kHz nighttime:

Original recording October 2018 at [Irish Pirate Radio Audio Archive](#).

Transcript published March 2019.

Then I was relaying the station called Fax Radio for a guy in the UK and he devised a transmitter that would change from AM at night to shortwave during the day automatically and it was an RCA ET. It was a work of art!

*Were you, like, the original transmitter of Fax then?*

I used to transmit for him, but he would send over the programmes there on tape, from the UK.

*Oh, so you were the broadcaster. I used to listen to Fax.*

Yeah and I used to operate the transmitter for him, and he had an AM and an FM (sic) antenna, which I had in my garden. But the funny thing about it was, I remember one Sunday I was operating Radio Rainbow as well from the same site, just, I lived out in the country, just a wee bit maybe a hundred yards away, and the propagation one Sunday was so strange that, he was in London, and Radio Rainbow would fade in and his would fade out. He couldn't figure out why. The different types, it must be the different types of aerials we were using, was more, conditions were more favourable for one. One minute, next thing, one would fade in, the other would fade out. He said he'd never seen anything like it before because usually everything would fade in or fade out.

*So it was 49 metre?*

49 metre band. I think, I think FAX was 6210 kilohertz and then it was on, way up at the end of the medium wave band, around 1600, in around 1605 or something, and it would change. He had a timer that would actually change and operate the medium wave oscillator on changeover, automatic. A work of art. It was genius. It was an RCA ET transmitter that he had renovated. I built my own. My own was quite, was more powerful. You know my own, that was on 6240kHz. Good, good fun. Good days.

*Is it good to do it for the fun and get paid as well?*

Well, yes, I used to get paid...

---

The 1988 Radiofax transmitter drive stages were all double tuned, so only the oscillator and output needed switching. The band changeover system was proof against mains failure and operated as follows:

- The 6am/6pm daytime/nighttime timer actuated a sequencer
- The sequencer depowered the transmitter HT
- A motor activated and rotated a multi segment high voltage ceramic switch, selecting 6205 short wave or 1611 medium wave pi output networks each feeding the appropriate antenna
- A relay switched between 6205 and 1611 drives
- When proof contacts were made soft start HT was reapplied
- After 30 seconds full HT was applied. 6205 daytime, 1611 nighttime.