

MINI EQUIPMENT REVIEW

THE YAESU MD-1C8 DELUXE DESK MICROPHONE

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THERE IS NOTHING LIKE an elegant desk microphone to add a bit of class to the shack. Not only does it add class to the general appearance, it usually adds a bit of class to the sound of the transceiver as well. The Yaesu MD-1C8 will do both in a big way. Dick Smith was kind enough to supply one with the FT-990 transceiver we reviewed recently, and I thought that really the microphone deserved a review of its own.

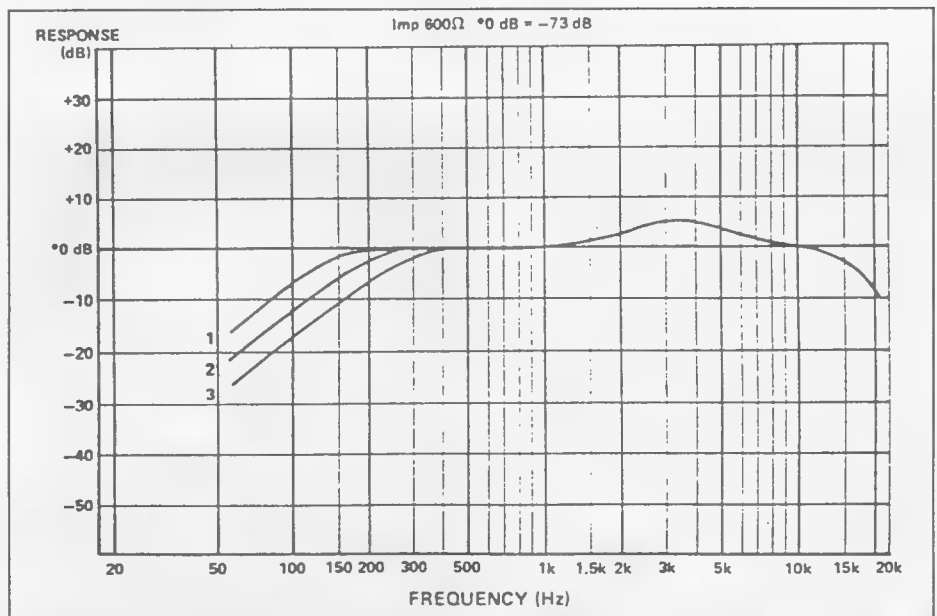
Let's have a quick look at the specifications. It has a basic impedance of 600 ohms and an overall response from 100Hz to 15kHz at the -6dB points. This puts it almost in the "broadcast" category. The directivity pattern is unidirectional, which means it has very little pick-up from the back. This is very useful property to reduce room echo, especially when speech processing is used. A three-position switch mounted under the desk stand provides two positions of selectable bass cut. You can select either full range, -5 and -10dB cut at 100Hz.

The base section has a PTT bar with a second section for PTT lock. Up/down buttons are conveniently positioned on the base with a "fast" button in between.

You can even use the microphone as a handheld with a PTT switch provided on the mike itself.

The Yaesu MD-1C8 On The Air

The microphone was tried on three different transceivers. In each case, the reports were very flattering, with marked improvement over the standard hand microphones. With the directional response, I found I could get back much further from the microphone without producing any noticeable room echo. In



Frequency Response Curve of the MD-1C8

general, DX contacts preferred the bass cut switch in the third or maximum cut position, while locals liked the full bass response. It's interesting to note that while the specification rates the cut as -5 and -10dB at 100Hz, the curve supplied shows this to actually be about -12 and -18dB. This appears to be met in practice. No doubt they forgot to take into account the fact that the normal response is down 6dB at 100Hz.

The microphone comes wired to an eight-pin connector to suit Yaesu equipment. It would not be too difficult to change this to suit other makes. The MD-1C8 is priced at \$169.

Our thanks to Dick Smith Electronics for the loan of our review microphone.



Yaesu MD-1C8 microphone

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UK Novices on the Air

As reported in the RSGB DX News Sheet, the *first UK Novice Licence* was issued in the last week of July this year.

Hugh McNeil, 13-year-old school student with the callsign 2E0AAA was reported operating on 28472kHz around 1100 UTC on Friday 26 July.

As far as the HF bands are concerned, UK novices are authorised to use the following frequencies/modes: (kHz) 1950-2000: CW/phone/RTTY/data; 3565-3585: CW; 10130-10140: CW; 21100-21149: 28100-29190

and 28225-28300: CW/RTTY/data; 28300-28500: CW/phone; 50620-50760 data; 51250-51750: CW/phone/data (phone: means any type of speech modulation - SSB, AM, FM etc.

Callsign prefixes are: England 2E, Scotland 2M, Wales 2W, Isle of Man 2D, Jersey 2G, Guernsey 2U, Northern Ireland 2I, in all cases followed by the number 0, 2, 3 or 4 and three letters.

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