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by Gil Sones VK3AUI

**Review of Yaesu FT4700RH
Dual Band FM Transceiver**

Review Rig Supplied by Dick Smith Electronics

Yaesu have managed to pack into a standard FM Transceiver size two complete transceivers. Even more impressive are the power outputs of 50 Watts on two metres and 40 watts on 70 centimetres. Both have all the usual features that you have come to expect.

Initial recourse to the manual is recommended as the transceiver is extremely versatile. You will probably want to use your own brew of features such as frequency step sizes and scan limits. The memories store the offset for repeaters which is very useful.

One feature which can be fitted is tone squelch. This could be the shape of things to come as it would enable greater sharing of channels. Groups within range of the very sensitive receiver could operate independently enabling a greater number of users. You would only have your receiver unmuted by stations within your group.

The transceiver is really two completely separate radios housed in the one box. The control circuitry and the front panel are the common elements. It is possible to talk on one band whilst listening on the other. In this way full duplex operation is possible.

A novel and useful feature is the ability to remove the front panel module and operate the RF side of the radio from three metres away. To do this all you need is an accessory cable kit. This should be a relatively cheap option. The radio could be mounted in the boot and the front panel controller beside you on the dashboard or console. The controller is easily detachable so that you can take it with you when leaving the vehicle or place it out of sight in a safe spot. Quite a feature these days.

Memory cloning is another useful possibility. This only requires a cable link between the microphone jacks of two transceivers and the memory contents can be transferred from one to the other.

On test the radio easily met the power output of 40 watts on 70 centimetres and 50 watts on 2 metres. Very impressive considering the small size of the radio. Of course this much power output in such a small package results in the generation of a lot of

heat. The heat sink is fitted with a small fan which operates on a thermostat. Thus the heat is removed before it can become an embarrassment.

Another consequence of this much power output is that you will need some really solid DC supply arrangements. In your car thick wires right to the battery terminals would be desirable. At home a power supply such as you would use for your HF rig is called for. The power output is only half the peak power of your SSB transceiver and the duty cycle is much greater.

A pat on the back to Yaesu for using a Type N connector for the 70 centimetre antenna lead. The two metre one is still one of those horrid UHF types. With the sort of receiver sensitivity built into this radio surely it deserves a type N on two metres as well.

Operation is a breeze and the transceiver comes out of the box with everything needed to get on the air. The packing is first class and is very much the usual Yaesu Standard. The instruction book comes with circuits but unless you have better than the usual workshop the case is best left in place. The circuit is there only to help you understand the radio and give you a warm feeling.

Construction and quality are such that you should never need to touch the internals. With the widespread use of surface mounting and very small components service is best left to the agents.

The only hard thing about this rig is giving it back or alternatively paying for it. The reviewer opted for giving it back but if you want to operate two bands with a very neat rig then a careful review of your finances is in order. The price is after all quite modest. Just a few years ago you would have needed two complete rigs and two bulky amplifiers to do the same. The cost of all that would likely have been more than the price of this rig in our current devalued dollars.

Summing up the Yaesu FT4700RH is a very impressive dual band radio at a relatively modest price.

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