

All three rigs retain their memory frequencies when switched off but still connected to the power supply but the 9130 has space on board for a PP3-type Ni-cad (not supplied) to retain information when disconnected eg while transferring from base station to mobile use. Band scanning facilities are provided on all the rigs, the most versatile being the 290E, with its hidden switches for programming, and a full or

One a final point concerning the digital side of things, I was rather concerned by the three slips of paper packed with the 290E warning about the possibility of 'lock up' if the power was momentarily interrupted. Of course, I had to try this out! Sure enough, both the 290E and 480R tended to lock up in a most obscure manner when supply interruptions occurred. The restart procedure I found most effective was to switch off, wait, switch on and then start again (annoying but not

In summary therefore, I found the three rigs very similar as far as performance was concerned, with the exception of the terrible audio quality of the 290E. The 480R and the 9130 were a pleasure to operate with the 9130 being possibly rather more straightforward but the 480R being a little more versatile. I did not enjoy operating the 290E but perhaps given a year or two I could come to love it. When assessing price against the ease of operation and performance, I feel that the 9130 comes out on top due to its 25W of RF, but if this doesn't concern you (ie linears are available) then the 480R is fine.

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