

FT790

REVIEW

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**A look at Yaesu's
magnificent UHF
all-rounder**



Actually, 'all-mode' is a slight misnomer — multimode would be more appropriate as the 790R does not provide AM (or FSK). What it does give you is SSB (upper and lower), CW and FM, together with a lot of facilities to help you find the activity on the wide open plains of 70cm.

There are a considerable number of multimode transceivers available for both 2M and 70cm, some portables, others base stations useable mobile, or vice versa. The FT-790R is a little difficult to categorise. It isn't really a true portable rig in the sense that a handheld is, (although it runs similar power to most handhelds) but it was probably designed, as is most likely to be used for this purpose. It isn't really a base station, due to the low power, and the fact that the BNC antenna socket is on the front (nothing on the back although there is a large hole which looks as though it might be intended for an antenna socket).

And it definitely isn't a mobile rig, at least not in the sense that it would be particularly safe to use on the move, unless you weren't going to change frequency. Ever tried reading a small LCD display at night (or in sunlight, despite Yaesu's remarks), or pressing very small keypad buttons on the move?

On the assumption that you can fit it to one of these purposes, most likely as an over the shoulder portable (it comes with suitable straps), then the 790R offers many facilities, especially if you like to keep an ear on the activity around the band.