

RIG REVIEWS

The IC25-E has been around for some time, while the IC45-E version is new. Both are Icom's contribution to the up-market FM only mobile transceiver market, the two metre version running 25W output, while the 70cm delivers 10W. Icom first introduced an FM rig to the UK market in 1970 — the IC2F (which was the first ever FM black box seen in this country), which retailed at £80, although I seem to remember Bill Lowe flogging them for £50 to Clubs. Maybe he knew what he was starting?

Since then they have had great success with the IC22/IC22A/IC240 series, the latter possibly the most successful of mobile rigs judging by the numbers still in use.

This review will concentrate on

ICOM's 2m and 70cm FM mobiles under test

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the IC25-E, with differences noted for the IC45-E. In compiling the review, the approach has been taken that most potential buyers will want to know what the rig offers, and how it performs in terms of facilities and on-the-air results, rather than pages of intricate circuit analysis, which will probably not be read anyway, so the latter has been limited to a quick run through plus the odd comment. What really matters are the actual lab figures which you can digest at leisure and com-

pare with other rigs. After all, Icom should know how to electrically design a transceiver by now — whether it designs if for the user is another matter!

General appearance

The first thing you will notice is the diminutive size of both rigs, which are virtually identical in appearance, at 50mm high × 140 wide × 170 deep, weighing 1.5Kg. They come with mobile mounting brackets, which won't scratch the rig, can also be locked, and aren't of

IC45E: 70cm 10W

