

points and can handle and remember the facilities when mobile, there is no doubt that both rigs are usable and useful for their purpose. The power output of the IC25-E is helpful when mobile, and for a change, the sensitivity of both rigs matches the respective power outputs. The quoted sensitivity of the 25-E seemed somewhat pessimistic at "0.6uV for 20dB quieting".

One gripe is that the heat sink on the IC25-E is too small. Even after a short period of operation, it is too hot to handle comfortably, and on a long over, does get extremely hot. The IC45-E stayed quite cool at the lower 10W output (this overheating was not limited to the review sample, judging by comments from other owners). Although no adverse consequences were immediately apparent, it can only reduce the life of the output amplifier. Some care in choosing the mounting position with the car to get maximum ventilation would be advisable.

The ability to change channels from the mic was useful, especially when migrating up and down from S20, and the programmed scan a boom on both 2 and 70 for watching the usual simplex and duplex channels. The only drawback was the necessity to reprogram the memories each time the rig was

removed from the car as, common with many people, the rig is never left unattended. The ease of inadvertently changing channels while transmitting caused slight problems at times, starting a QSO with one station, and finding yourself branded as an intruder later on.

Audio output direct from the internal speakers was adequate, although a little too bassy to copy easily at speed with in-car noise. A special external communications speaker was normally used which gives excellent copy with high road noise present. Received reports were always complimentary, stations often recognised the rig as an Icom, as its rigs seem to have a reputation for clean, crisp audio qualities.

Mind you, there is always the exception to the rule, and, on receiving a report that the audio was topnier than is usually the case, the very next station commented that the audio was bassier than normal!

The external appearance of either cannot be faulted, or the standard of workmanship, both internally and externally, given the constraints dictated by the small size. Accessibility to the internals is reasonably easy, after removing

four small screws from either the top or bottom covers. Due to the small size, it may be possible to fit the rig into the space occupied by a car radio or cassette, although you could be a target for thieves as a result.

Conclusions

It all depends on whether you want a lot of facilities when mobile and, personally, the reviewer found both rigs over the top in this respect. If you do want these facilities then there is little to be really put off by, apart from annoying traits such as the squelch, and the front panel toneburst on the 2m version. Either rig makes an excellent base station with just about every facility available so far, although you might feel that the additional expenditure for a multimode transceiver could be worthwhile if you were using it primarily as a base station.

Our technical assessment appears on the following pages.

