

REVIEW: TRIO TS-930S HF TRANSCEIVER

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When this rig arrived for review, I had been looking forward to the event for some time, as the few people I had heard who had the transceiver seemed very impressed by it with such comments as "The best rig I have laid my hands on so far". Having had the opportunity to use it for some time, I can now say I have 'joined the club', and am also very impressed with its facilities and performance from a user's point of view.

So, if you are thinking of buying this box of tricks, and have around £1000 to spare — read on.

The review unit was a basic transceiver, without any of the extras available. Judging by the comments in the manual, it is a late model which has some extras, although whether early versions were ever available here is not known (these 'extras' are Noise Blanker 2, Auto SWR Meter, and Full Break-in).

For the record, the additional accessories available for internal fitting are an Automatic Antenna Tuning Unit (AT-930), which fits in a space behind the front right hand panel with the

necessary control switch and indicator already present on the front panel; and a selection of extra filters such as 500Hz and 250Hz bandwidths for CW use. There are a number of additional out-board accessories designed to match the transceiver, such as a linear amplifier (TL-922A), station monitor, external speaker and a 'digital world clock' (for the avid DX chaser). The unit comes well packed with accessory plugs, but yet again, no microphone. The mic used was a Trio MC-50 — if you use this then the plug has to be changed for the special 8-pin version needed — the correct mic is the MC-60.

A manual is supplied which explains the operation well, but it is let down by the presentation of the circuit diagrams (try to follow them!) and lack of any servicing data whatsoever. Trio could learn from Yaesu in this respect.

Basic facilities

The transceiver is all solid-state, mains powered (no 12V input) unit with

facilities for transceive operation on all amateur bands between 1.8 and 30MHz, including the new 'WARC' bands. It also functions as a general coverage receiver between 100kHz and 30MHz, using 1MHz synthesised increments in conjunction with the 1MHz coverage digital VFO.

In order to prevent transmission on other than amateur frequencies, the rig locks out the transmit function out-of-band. Unfortunately the WARC bands were also locked out and on mention was given in the handbook of how to reinstate these. As the rig was on loan, no attempt was made to do this, and hence no transmission was possible on 10, 18 or 24MHz.

(NB: just as this review was being finished, and the unit about to disappear, the method of enabling the WARC bands was found hidden inside a folded page under Section 8 at the back of the manual. The statement that transmission on the WARC bands is not possible as supplied, and that a minor wiring adjustment is needed is preceded by how to do