

DT20 DR30



DAVCO

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\$571[±]

Two thousand designers—that would be quite a staff for any company. But that's how many hams we talked with before deciding what our new line of equipment should offer. They said they wanted transceiver convenience, but separate VFO's for chasing DX; we gave them both. They needed all the bands, not only for ragchewing on the high bands but because the sunspots won't be uncooperative forever; we put in *full* coverage of 80 through 10, even the foreign segments, and then some. Is 6-meter coverage too much to expect? We don't think so. Think what that means! They asked for AM & CW, along with the high-performance SSB, so we provided three positions of receiver selectivity, including a Collins mechanical filter and a CW crystal filter, and worked out good keying characteristics on the transmitter. Of course they insisted upon good stability; we had to work a long time to provide it at the temperature extremes they encounter. Almost everybody would add a crystal calibrator, so we did it for them and even provided WWV coverage. They asked for a transmitter power level which wouldn't require overhauling of the electrical system of the family bus, yet they wanted enough for a really emphatic signal mobiling and enough to drive a linear back home. Oh, they asked for lots of things; we

put in independent broadcast coverage, a built-in VOX, selectable AGC time constants, extra band positions for MARS, etc., a crystal controlled carrier generator and BFO for USB and LSB, a tuning ration that gives 10 kc to a turn, and everything else that you expect. Then we made plug-in subassemblies of all this, held them together with a really rugged (and heavy) chassis, and wrapped it all in fiberglass cabinets that don't shrink from field-day duty.

We had to borrow freely of the components and techniques of the computer-and-missile crowd in order to do all of this, and we don't quite know how to characterize the results. In pure performance and versatility, the DAVCO DR-30 and DT-20 must be ranked with the best fixed-station rigs, but the small size and ease of operation make them quite logical mobile or portable rig choices. And what an outfit for DX-peditions (besides the performance, hand luggage goes through customs a lot easier!)

Our 2000 friends gave us quite an assignment, and it took us darned near three years to fill it. We sincerely hope that the results are a significant contribution to the application of space-age technology to the amateur field.