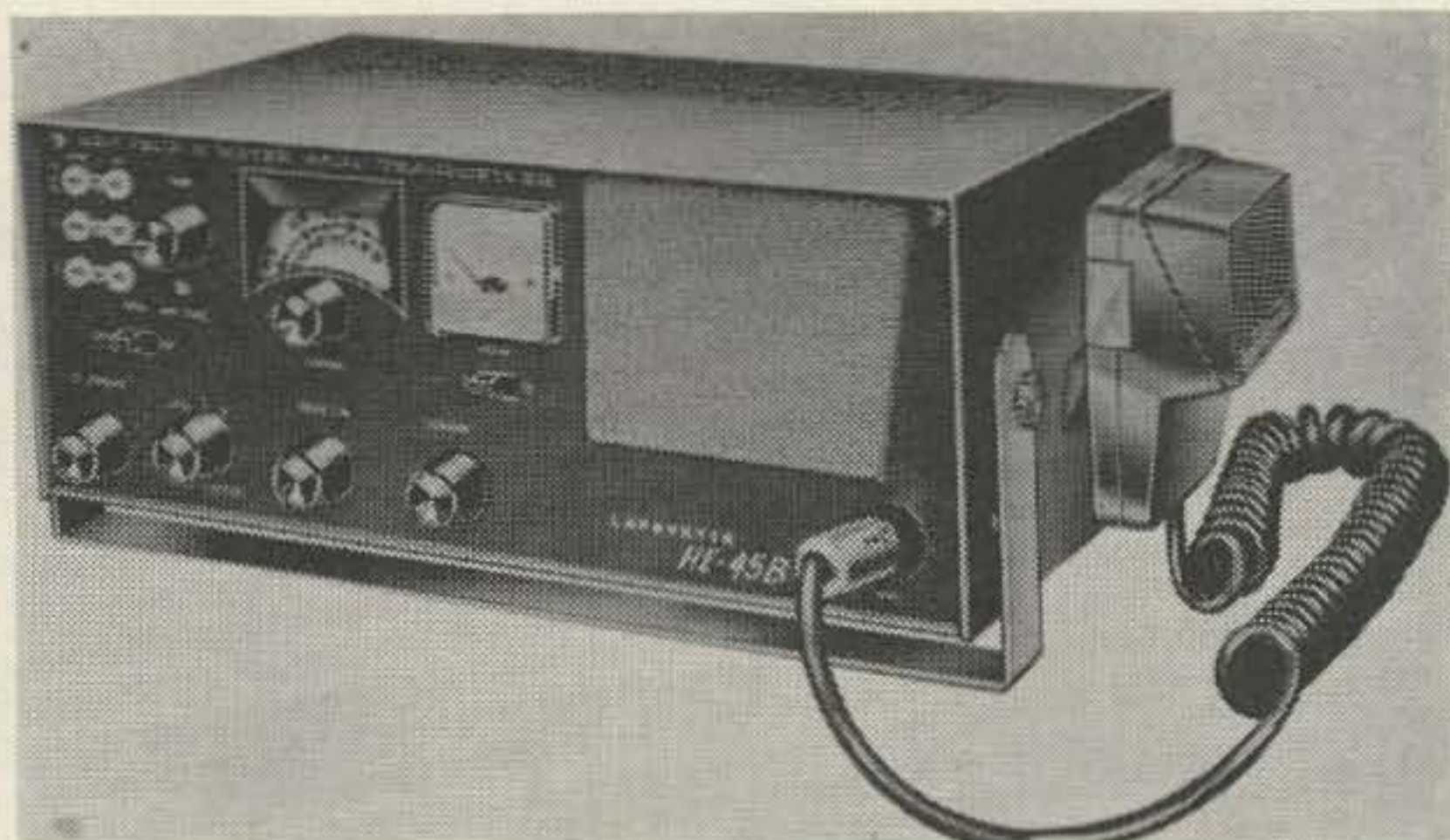


Lafayette HE-45B



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Although not a recent market item, the Lafayette HE-45B has received little publicity since being modified from the HE-45. Nevertheless, this compact unit is a real sleeper. It deserves the attention of the six-meter enthusiast for fixed or mobile use or both.

The transceiver as received from Lafayette is complete. You can be on the air within five minutes of unpacking if you have an antenna up! A good ceramic push-to-talk microphone with AC and DC cables and plugs (already wired), a crystal for 50.124 mc, and a detachable mounting bracket are included. The latter may be left on when used as a fixed station, permitting the unit to face the operator with the slope of the panel adjustable. For mobile operation, the bracket provides the main support for underdash mounting. An additional rear strap support (which may not be needed) is also supplied.

The unit is attractive. It even met the approval of my XYL. It measures but 12 inches wide by 5 inches high, so the unit requires very little space in a standard size car and would even fit well in a compact.

Operating controls are functional. They provide all of the necessities without complicating

mobile operation. However, tune-up for maximum output cannot be accomplished easily while in motion. Once the transmitter is peaked for maximum output on one frequency, the only controls that need touching are the receiver dial and volume control. An rf peaking control in the secondary of the 50.2 mc rf bandpass transformer is quite sharp, but once peaked does not need retuning over about a 2 mc range. The series-gate noise limiter is very effective, and is best left in full operation when mobile (if not for your own car, then for others). Noise is completely eliminated by the limiter in my 1960 Chevrolet, which has just the usual auto radio noise-suppression capacitors (generator, etc.), and no spark plug suppression. The noise control also functions as a convenient push-on, push-off standby switch. Two crystal sockets and a VFO socket are provided. Front panel switching of these three positions is provided. Power for a VFO may be obtained from a receptacle on the rear apron. It is designed for the Lafayette HE-61A 6-meter VFO, but many other VFO's can be used. A spotting switch completes the crystal oscillator (or VFO) circuit in the receive position. One other switch al

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It weighs 155 pounds, but this is because it is built to last without trouble for years. These units sold for over \$3000 for several years and have recently been advertised for as low as \$900. We have a limited number of these fabulous freq meters for only \$75 fob Pasadena. It is unlikely that you'll ever see these available again so buy now while we still have a few left. Ask any Navy op about the LR, or ask W2NSD or W6ITH, both of whom have used them for years.

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lows the meter on the transceiver to function either as an S-meter or relative power output meter. The S-meter is conservative.

Tuning-up is relatively simple. The usual pi-network output circuit permits just about any piece of wire to load. Tuning to resonance (maximum reading on panel milliammeter marked Prf) is done with a front panel knob marked TANK. Loading is then performed by working on a screwdriver slot capacitor through a hole in the front panel. It is convenient to put a small knob on the loading control because this tuning is sufficiently sharp that retuning is necessary even when changing frequency a few kilocycles.

The same power input receptacle is used for both mobile and fixed operation, but the fused mobile power cable is terminated on one end with a cigaret lighter plug. This plug was removed in our installation, and a permanent connection made to an underdash spare fuse block.

The receiver is very adequate, with a sensitivity of 1 microvolt, and selectivity 3 kc at 6 db down. Image rejection is 45 db. Three if stages are incorporated, and a tuned rf band-pass stage ahead of the detector provides additional selectivity.

The transmitter portion of the unit is entirely separate in circuitry from the receiver except for the modulator. Half of a 6AW8 is used as an oscillator (buffer on VFO), with the crystal/vfo frequency-tripling in a second half. The 2E26 output tube operating Class C runs at 15 watts input. The modulator uses a 6EA8 as a speech amplifier with a 7868 doubling as a screen modulator for the 2E26 and as receiver audio output.

The power supply uses silicon rectifiers. For mobile operation, a 12-volt vibrator is used.

Performance was excellent over a three-month period operating from Pennsylvania to California. When 6-meter activity was found, contacts were made without difficulty with excellent reports both as to quantity and excellent quality of the signal. Contacts have been made consistently up to 15 miles mobile, and in some areas contacts were made in motion at distances of up to 60 miles with S7 to S9+ reports normal. In all of the mobile contacts the antenna used has been a front-owl mounted New-Tronics NB-40 vertical antenna. In fixed operation during a recent band opening with a ground plane antenna 20 feet up, a good contact was made California-to-Colorado.

The HB-45B at \$119.95 f.o.b. Syosset represents an excellent buy.

... K3JHK/6

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