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73 Tests the Galaxy V

It's driving me out of my mind. The V arrived just a few days ago on loan for evaluation. I was quite surprised at how small it was . . . it looked so big in the ads. Instead of setting it up down in the ham shack I decided to put it on a small typewriter table by my desk and feed the antenna up through the floor.

Frankly, since the Galaxy V is the lowest cost five band selectable sideband transceiver, I expected to be faced with all kinds of miseries in operation. Not a problem of any sort has turned up.

My first try was on 3999 kc, probably the most aristocratic frequency of all the hambands. After a careful examination of my signal on their scopes I was admitted to this elite group and permitted to talk freely with the assembled M-2's. Had there been untoward carrier, unwanted sideband, or distortion I never would have made the club.

That night I tuned up on twenty meters . . . Oh, by the way, the V is a snap to tune . . . even old fumble-fingers me got the hang of it right off. My first call was YV5CEI. When we finished I got trapped by two fellows down Boston way . . . 73 readers . . . and I got another hour behind on my work. This having a rig by the desk is bad news . . . it is too easy to flip it on just to see who is there . . . then I *have* to call in and say hello to some old friend. Yes, I do have some friends.

One control that is left off some of the transceivers is the one for switching sidebands. Sure, you don't need it often, but when you do you do. One of the first stations I heard on 75 was using the upper sideband instead of lower and I switched him in with a chuckle to myself, thinking of all the fellows who could hear the noise, but couldn't tune it in. Obviously this is quite advantageous on CW, where at least one side of the station you are working has a little less QRM than the other.



This brings up another considerable advantage of the Galaxy V . . . CW. Many of the transceivers are designed strictly for SSB . . . some permit CW, but don't let you tune the entire CW part of the ham bands. The V covers not only the entire ham bands, but overlaps enough on most bands to permit MARS operation, reception of CHU, and stuff like that. Specifically it tunes from 3.5-4.0 mc, 7.0-7.5 mc, 14.0-14.5 mc, 21.0-21.5 mc, 28.0-29.0 mc. Crystals are available to allow the V to tune other frequencies of course. CW ops will be glad to note that the rig runs 300 watts and that they've shifted the carrier 1 kc into the passband to eliminate "leap-frogging."

Galaxy uses transistors for the audio amplifier, driver and output circuits and in the accessory vox plug-in unit. Not caring for vox myself, I am glad to find it now is optional. The transistors considerably cut down on the size of the unit; good move.

Though I've been conditioned to rely on Galaxy's advertised specs, I still wanted to see if this little black box could really put out 200 watts into my dummy load the way they said it could. In the CW position my Waters Dummy (no offense) Load Wattmeter read 200 watts right on the nose. The wattmeter doesn't read PEP watts (whose does?), but if it will put out 200 CW watts I guess it doesn't have any problem mustering up the 300 SSB watts input they claim.

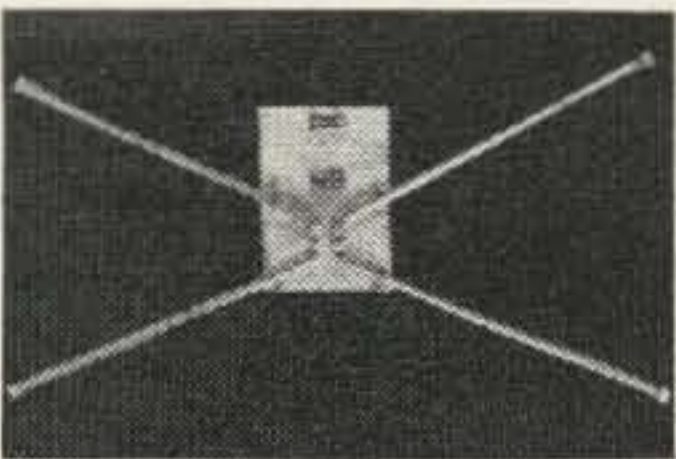
Perhaps it isn't even necessary to bring this up, but the Galaxy V is every bit as stable as you could ask. I only mention this because I've gotten tired retuning the fellows I'm talking with after each transmission on another make transceiver that I've been using. That one is not in current production, so don't worry about it. The Galaxy V, even when freshly turned on, stays right on frequency. Good show.

. . . W2NSD/1

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