

73 Tests The Hammarlund HX-50



When Hammarlund announced the HX-50 some months ago we at 73 anxiously read the literature to get an idea of what was in the works. The ads looked awfully good so you can imagine how excited we were when we finally got word from them that a unit could be spared for a quick editorial evaluation. It is pretty difficult to take a rig and lend it out for a few weeks when you have distributors all over the country phoning, sending telegrams, and trying in every way they can to get you to send more rigs.

Possibly due to the built up interest here resulting from the HX-50 ads and partly curiosity as to what kind of job Hammarlund had done on this sideband transmitter after all these years of sticking to receivers, the box was open before it hit the ground after being kicked off the Express truck and the HX-50 was being carefully scrutinized and exclaimed over.

As the Express truck turned out of our driveway the HX-50 was warming up for its first contact. During the next few hours it racked up many SSB contacts on 75-40-20 meters, including some garden variety DX, and got a good workout on 20 and 40 CW with WIMEL at the bug.

During the next few days we went over the rig carefully, feeding it into different antennas, checking it with a wattmeter, frequency standards, oscilloscope, and all that. We compared our tests with the advertised specs and could find no place where Hammarlund was not guilty of understatement.

It would be a shame if you read all the

way through a test report on a piece of new gear without knowing just what it was you were reading about, so let's take a close look at the HX-50. The HX-50 is a combination SSB/CW transmitter which covers all of the regular ham bands, 80 through 10 meters. It will also cover 160 meters with an optional kit. It can also be used for the MARS or CAP channels with a crystal or external VFO. There is provision for three crystal controlled frequencies, external and internal VFO with one switch.

It is rated at 120 watts PEP, 90 watts dc input on sideband or CW and about 25 watts on AM. It has a built-in antenna relay, a great plus in a transmitter for it is something that you've got to have to operate and which is seldom found in rigs with the result that you usually have to buy a rather expensive relay and wire it in the circuit, giving you a lot more wires to drape around the shack.

Naturally the HX-50 has Vox and push-to-talk. The keying is time sequenced and adjustable. The VFO is not only quite stable but easy to read and very accurate due to the built-in crystal calibrator.

It would seem that the hams down at Hammarlund have thought of everything possible. If they've forgotten anything then it has escaped us too for this rig seems to work just fine and do everything you could ask, whether you be CW or SSB op. The \$399.95 price is mighty low by today's equipment standards and makes it possible to have a pretty fancy ham station without a tremendous investment.

... Wayne