

REVIEW

Yaesu FT980



Computer Aided Transceiver

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Yaesu have established a pretty good reputation for themselves over the past decade with an ever changing range of amateur equipment, doing well in keeping up with the apparent needs of the modern amateur. The *FT-980R* is probably comparable with the Trio *TS930S*, which was reviewed in the July issue.

The *FT-980R* is the latest offering and appears to be a slightly cheaper version of the *FT-ONE* at first glance. It is a fairly bulky beast, which may be a consideration for the smaller bench, at 380 x 165 x 465mm overall. Power requirements are 240V 50Hz, at 530VA in transmit mode — there is no provision for 12V operation. However, I doubt that anyone would seriously con-

sider this model for mobile operation!

As usual, the transceiver came well packed, with a good range of plugs for the rear apron outlets. Also, as usual, the plug on the end of the mains lead was a European type — can't someone at Yaesu manage a British version? (Presumably they sell enough here to make it worthwhile.) A couple of microphones were supplied with the review equipment, but they are not normally supplied.

Add-ons

The sample came with a number of options fitted. The keyer unit (using a Curtis 8044 chip), 600Hz CW

filter and FM and AM units with appropriate filters. The FM and AM units are supplied at standard.

What it does

Like most modern rigs costing in excess of £1000, there are a considerable number of facilities offered. The 'innovation' with this one is the 'CAT' system, which enables remote control of virtually all the facilities by computer, via an optional interface.

The rig covers all amateur bands on transmit, and is a general coverage unit on receive, powering up on 7MHz. Modes of operation are USB/LSB/CW/FM/AM/FSK.

As you can see from the illustra-