

DO NOT OVER-RATE DYNAMIC RANGE

One thing that I need to stress is [that] the amateur community has become obsessed with which radio has a close-in dynamic range a few dB higher than another.

Decades ago Tom Rauch W8JI and I were saying that a close-in dynamic range (DR3) of 80 dB would perform well most of the time. Back then with all the up-conversion radios on the market, most had a DR3 around 70, with some in the 60s.

The Orion I was the first commercial radio to go back to what we now call "down conversion" and it had a DR3 over 90 dB. The amateur community now has a good selection of radios that have a DR3 value in excess of 85 dB.

It is rare that an 85 dB radio will not be adequate in a CW pileup.

All the T-T products except the Omni-VII are 90 dB or better, along with products from most of the other OEMs.

Once you have decided you want a 90 or better radio, for example, then there are lots of other important parameters to consider, such as:

- clean receive audio for low fatigue in a contest,
- a good AGC (which T-T has recently improved in respect to handling impulse noise),
- the ease of use (user interface),
- reliability,
- quality of service and long-term parts support,
- long term firmware support,
- lack of ALC overshoot, (a problem with the TS-590S and IC-7410 for example) when driving a linear.
- The list goes on.

You don't buy a car with one specification, like horse power. The 427 cubic inch Corvette from years ago had lots of horse power but didn't handle very well!

73, Rob, NC0B

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NOTE: Extracted from a post to the Ten-Tec Eagle group; thus the frequent mention of Ten-Tec. (DJ0IP)