

Close-in 2-kHz Test @ 500 Hz BW

Dynamic Range of Top 21 HF Transceivers

• Yaesu FTdx-101D	110 dB	
• Yaesu FTdx10	107 dB	
• Elecraft K3S	106 dB	
• Icom 7851	105 dB	
• Kenwood TS-890S	105 dB	
• Hilberling PT-8000A	105 dB	
• Elecraft KX3	104 dB	
• Apache 7000DLE	103 dB	
• Yaesu FTdx-5000D	101 dB	
• Flex 6400	100 dB	
• Flex 6600	99 dB	(16 dB preamp ON)
• Flex 6700 (2017)	99 dB	(Preamp OFF)
• Icom 7610	98 dB	(IP+ ON)
• Icom 7300	97 dB	(IP+ ON, S/N around 10,000 and up)
• Flex 5000	96 dB	
• Ten-Tec Orion II	95 dB	
• Ten-Tec Orion I	93 dB	
• Kenwood TS-590SG	92 dB	
• Ten-Tec Eagle	90 dB	
• Flex 6300	89 dB	
• Icom 705	88 dB	(No IP+ ADC linearization)

You can effectively work DX and Contests with any of these fine transceivers.

New price range \$1000 to \$12,000+

Used market price even lower

I have run contests with 15 of the 21

N2IC uses two TS-590 models.

Don't select a new radio on one number !

Important factors to consider

- Operator fatigue is made worse by poor receive audio and poor AGC performance.
- Bad ergonomics slows you down in a contest.
- Is speech processor adequate?
- NB and NR very important for urban QTHs.
- Is firmware regularly updated?
- Is warranty service done well and quickly?
- Is the radio supported with parts and service after it is out of production?
- Bottom Line: Do you enjoy using your radio?

What Numbers are Most Important in a multi-signal environment ?

- Close-in Dynamic Range (DR3) on CW or RTTY
- Noise floor is needed to calculate DR3.
- Reciprocal Mixing Dynamic Range (RMDR)
- Transmitted broadband composite noise
- SSB transmit IMD splatter limits RX performance.
- Key clicks limit close-in CW reception.