




# Recommended Handheld Transceivers for the New Amateur Radio Operator



Radio	Cost	Pros	Cons
 <p><a href="#">TDXone TD-Q8A</a></p>	<p>\$60</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inexpensive starter radio</li> <li>• Built in flashlight</li> <li>• Dual band VHF/UHF</li> <li>• RX 136 - 174 MHz, 400 - 520 MHz</li> <li>• TX 2m/440 @ 4 watts</li> <li>• Broadcast FM receiver</li> <li>• Accessories compatible with Kenwood TH-F6A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult to program without computer</li> <li>• Quirky interface</li> <li>• Single receiver that scans the 2 displayed frequencies</li> </ul>
 <p><a href="#">Yaesu FT-60R</a></p>	<p>\$150</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good starter radio</li> <li>• Least expensive name brand dual VHF/UHF radio</li> <li>• RX 108-520 MHz &amp; 700-999.990 MHz</li> <li>• TX 2m/440 @ 5 watts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single channel receiver</li> <li>• Cannot listen to multiple frequencies simultaneously (but does support scan)</li> <li>• Slightly unintuitive interface</li> <li>• Difficult to program without computer</li> </ul>
 <p><a href="#">Yaesu VX-6R</a></p>	<p>\$240</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triband transceiver</li> <li>• RX: 0.5 MHz -720 MHz, 800 - 999 MHz</li> <li>• TX 2m/70cm @ 5 watts 1.25m @ 1.5 watts</li> <li>• Waterproof to 3 feet for 30 minutes</li> <li>• Wide array of accessories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slightly unintuitive interface</li> <li>• Expensive</li> <li>• Low transmitter power on 1.25m</li> <li>• Single channel receiver</li> </ul>
<p><i>Top Pick</i></p>  <p><a href="#">Kenwood TH-F6A</a></p>	<p>\$320</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triband transceiver</li> <li>• Dual channel Receiver</li> <li>• Intuitive interface</li> <li>• Common functions easily accessible on front panel</li> <li>• RX 0.1 MHz - 1,300 MHz</li> <li>• TX 2m/1.25m/70cm @ 5 watts</li> <li>• All mode receive (CW, LSB, USB, AM, FM, WFM) on all bands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small buttons</li> </ul>



# Recommended Mobile Transceivers for the VHF/UHF Amateur Radio Operator



All radios on this page require an antenna and feed line. (~\$50-\$200)

If used from wall power (120v AC) they also require a 12v DC 20A power supply. (~\$60-\$200)

Radio	Cost	Pros	Cons
<p><i>Top Pick</i></p>  <p><a href="#">Kenwood TM-V71A</a></p>	\$360	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dual band transceiver</li> <li>• Dual channel receiver</li> <li>• RX 118 MHz - 524 MHz, 800 - 1,300 MHz</li> <li>• TX 2m/70cm @ 50 watts</li> <li>• Simple &amp; easy to use</li> <li>• Dual color display</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic and simple, no extra features</li> </ul>
 <p><a href="#">Yaesu FT-8800R</a></p>	\$430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dual band transceiver</li> <li>• Dual channel receiver</li> <li>• Duplicated controls for each half of the radio for easier use</li> <li>• RX 108 MHz - 520 MHz, 700 - 999.995 MHz</li> <li>• TX 2m @ 50 watts 70cm @ 35 watts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower power on UHF</li> <li>• Common features buried in menu tree</li> </ul>
 <p><a href="#">ICOM IC2730A</a></p>	\$470	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dual band transceiver</li> <li>• Dual channel receiver</li> <li>• Optional Bluetooth Headset</li> <li>• RX 118 MHz - 174 MHz, 375 - 550 MHz</li> <li>• TX 2m/70cm @ 50 watts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small receive range compared to other models</li> </ul>
<p><i>Top Pick</i></p>  <p><a href="#">Kenwood TM-D710G</a></p>	\$650	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APRS with built in GPS</li> <li>• Built in TNC</li> <li>• Dual color display</li> <li>• RX 118 MHz - 524 MHz &amp; 800 - 1,300 MHz</li> <li>• TX 2m/70cm @ 50 watts</li> <li>• Has nearly everything one would want from an FM transceiver</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highest in price</li> </ul>



# Recommended Mobile Transceivers for the HF (VHF/UHF) Amateur Radio Operator



All radios on this page require an antenna and feed line. (~\$50-\$300)

If used from wall power (120v AC) they also require a 12v DC 30A power supply. (~\$120-\$200)

Radio	Cost (MSRP)	Pros	Cons
 <p><a href="#">Yaesu FT-857D</a></p>	\$830	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HF/6m plus VHF/UHF</li> <li>• All mode (CW, USB, LSB, AM, FM)</li> <li>• Smallest HF/VHF/UHF transceiver on the market</li> <li>• TX HF/6m @ 100 watts</li> <li>• 2m @ 50 watts</li> <li>• 70cm @ 20 watts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult interface</li> <li>• Configuration buried in multiple menu options</li> <li>• No integrated tuner</li> <li>• Low power on 70cm/440</li> </ul>
<p><i>Top Pick</i></p>  <p><a href="#">Kenwood TS-480SAT</a></p>	(TS-480SAT) \$900  (TS-480HX) \$1050	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HF plus 6m</li> <li>• 100 watts (TS-480SAT) with internal antenna tuner</li> <li>• 200 watts (TS-480HX)</li> <li>• All mode (CW, USB, LSB, AM, FM)</li> <li>• Good mix of small size plus accessible controls</li> <li>• SAT version has integrated antenna tuner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No VHF/UHF</li> <li>• 200 watt model loses internal antenna tuner</li> </ul>
 <p><a href="#">ICOM IC-7100</a></p>	\$1180	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HF/6m plus VHF/UHF</li> <li>• All mode (CW, USB, LSB, AM, FM)</li> <li>• Touch screen control</li> <li>• TX HF/6m @ 100 watts</li> <li>• 2m @ 50 watts</li> <li>• 70cm @ 35 watts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expensive</li> </ul>



# Recommended Base Transceivers for the HF (VHF/UHF) Amateur Radio Operator



All radios on this page require an antenna and feed line. (~\$50-\$300+)

If used from wall power (120v AC) they also require a 12v DC 30A power supply. (~\$120-\$200)

Radio	Cost (MSRP)	Pros	Cons
<p><i>Top Pick</i></p>  <p><a href="#">Yaesu FT-450D</a></p>	\$750	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HF (160m - 6m)</li> <li>• Multimode (CW, USB, LSB, AM, FM)</li> <li>• HF/6m @ 100 watts</li> <li>• DSP filter</li> <li>• Builtin antenna tuner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No VHF/UHF</li> </ul>
 <p><a href="#">Kenwood TS-2000</a></p>	(TS-2000) \$1630  (TS-2000X) \$2160	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HF/6m plus VHF/UHF</li> <li>• All mode (CW, USB, LSB, AM, FM)</li> <li>• Dual receivers (sub-receiver only does VHF/UHF)</li> <li>• TX HF/6m/2m @ 100 watts 70cm @ 50 watts 23cm (1.2Ghz) @ 10 watts on TS-2000X model</li> <li>• Builtin antenna tuner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No IF shift control knob</li> <li>• Can be overwhelming with its large feature set</li> </ul>
<p><i>Top Pick</i></p>  <p><a href="#">Kenwood TS-590SG</a></p>	\$1760	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HF plus 6m</li> <li>• TX HF/6m @ 100 watts</li> <li>• All mode (CW, USB, LSB, AM, FM)</li> <li>• Good array of controls on the front panel</li> <li>• Builtin antenna tuner</li> <li>• Recently released</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No VHF/UHF</li> </ul>
 <p><a href="#">Yaesu FT-991</a></p>	\$1800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HF/6m and VHF/UHF</li> <li>• All mode (CW, USB, LSB, AM, FM)</li> <li>• Builtin antenna tuner</li> <li>• TX HF/6m @ 100 watts 2m/70cm @ 50 watts</li> <li>• Touch screen</li> <li>• Recently released</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expensive</li> </ul>