The EICO 753K

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The authors recently completed an EICO 753, tri band SSB-AM-CW transceiver kit. The kit sells for $179.95 and in our opinion it is worth every penny. Power input is 200 watts PEP on SSB and CW and 100 watts on AM. Full frequency coverage of the 80, 40 and 20 meter bands is provided. The receiver section has an offset tuning control so that it can be detuned a few kilocycles from the transmitted signal in case the other fellow drifts or is not exactly on frequency. This control is smooth and easy to operate as is the entire transceiver. The transceiver is housed in a heavy gauge perforated steel cabinet with a cast aluminum front panel. Machined aluminum knobs are used and the "feel" is excellent. The main tuning dial is a dual ratio with ratios of 6 to 1 and 30 to 1. This allows rapid band coverage and at the same time gives a good tuning rate for sideband. The receiver is very sensitive on all bands and although we did not measure the rf output; our dummy load light bulb was very bright indicating good efficiency in the transmitter. The set has an effective ALC system on transmit as well as good AVC action on receive.

Construction of the kit was not difficult. The crystal filter is factory assembled. The VFO and if strips are built on printed circuit boards and go together quickly and easily. The audio, VOX, and final rf Section are of conventional construction. All parts are readily accessible and the wiring is "single layer". Alignment was easy and did not require test equipment. The if alignment is accomplished by using the carrier oscillator as a signal generator and the receiver "S" meter as a vacuum tube voltmeter. All other stages are aligned by peaking the tuned circuits for maximum output when transmitting. There were some minor mistakes in the construction manual which is not too surprising for the first run of a kit as sophisticated as this one. They did not cause us any great trouble and conversation with EICO indicates that later manuals will be corrected.

Twenty minutes after the last connection had been soldered in place, we had the unit aligned and on the air. Reports were very flattering in regards to suppression, voice quality and frequency stability. We were impressed by the receiver stability and the general ease of operation and in conclusion we hope that EICO will continue to expand their ham line with other modern, high quality kits such as this one.

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