

Ham 177 - Evaluating with reasons

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Preferred equipment should be based on research data. The ham community is often very opinionated, without measured reasoning. Be wary. Have a reason.

The table is to assist in the evaluation process. It is a list of options to consider and compare for any application you are planning. Prioritize what is important to you. No device is perfect. For example, a pocket device cannot be large. Similarly, use outside must survive the weather. Make a comparison table for each device you are considering.

For comparison ranking, give a value of 1) poor 2) ok 3) excellent if it meets the required criteria. Sum the values.

Objective:	A gadget to measure stuff					
Rank	What's best?	It depends!				1)poor 2)ok 3)excellent
Type Device						
Power VAC	120	240	extension cord	computer cord		
Power VDC	Volts	USB-A	USB-C	barrel dia.	clips	
Batteries	qty	recharge	button	9V	AAA/AA/C/D	gel
Power Out						
Frequency						
Enclosure	indoor	outdoor	damp	wet		
Location	lab	shack	luggable	pocket		
Size	LxWxH	small	medium	large	won't fit	
Weight	kg	light	moderate	heavy		
Ruggedness	reliability	delicate				
Adapters	ruggedness	connector	cable	multiple	common avail	
Display	analog	black&white	color	graphical		
Input	knobs	buttons	touch screen	wireless		
Signal connect	coax	USB	pins			
Termination	So-238	PI-259	Type N M/F	Japan M	China F	
Ease of use						
Flexibility						
Performance						
Duplication	commonality					
Delivery						
Vendor	Amazon	Ham online	used			
Price	\$	sale				
Brand	reputable/	generic	knockoff			
Model						

NOTES:

Recommendations are based on 1) *performance* 2) *friendly usability by most people* 3) *price*.

Typically, we have two recommendations: 1) preferred for performance or 2) tolerable performance but better price point.

Friendly availability includes time, size, weight, reliable, flexible, usability, how long it takes to set-up, how long it takes to use. If a manual is required for routine operations, it is not friendly usable by most and has a low value.

Duplication is extremely important. For support and availability in emergency, use devices that others in the group use. For that reason, every military and utility vehicle has the same equipment. Although my background would suggest some specialty items, I use the precise same equipment as everyone else, because it works.

Life is good. Enjoy!

