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I purchased the IC-718 as a secondary/back-up HF station. I was immediately impressed by the great receiver this little rig has. The receiver is very quiet, nearly free of hiss, distortions, or audio artifacts. I don't think a better radio could be had in its price class.

The 718 is feature-packed despite its appearance on the face. A series of menu items are easy to access by pressing the "set" button. Mic gain and RF power output are the first items in this menu. The list of menu settings is much too long to list here, but rest assured that there are items that most users will find useful.

IF shift, RIT, RF gain, & AF gain are primary front panel controls. There is no display of the RIT offset, but one can't have everything in this price class. The RF gain control can double as

an all mode squelch. The IF shift works well, I would have liked Pass Band Tuning, but again, one can't have everything.

DSP on the 718 comes as an optional plug-in board. Currently it is offered for free with the purchase of the radio. When I got my 718 I installed the unit as per the manual instructions, it was easy to do, taking about 15 minutes. After the DSP unit is installed in the radio, a "DSP" indicator appears on the front display. This way a new user can see instantly that the DSP is installed in any 718 he comes across. The DSP works well, even though it is in the AF signal path only. The NR level is adjustable, to minimize distortions. The 718 can also be equipped with the optional voice synthesizer, for frequency and S-meter readout.

I have often heard hams complaining on the air that new radios are far too complex for them, that they are confused by the complex arrays of front panel controls and or many layers of menus. The 718 is perfect for these hams. It has a minimum of front panel controls, and menus, and performs well along side the more complex and expensive counterparts. I feel that a new HF ham would do well to buy the 718, and get used to operating before moving up in price and complexity. One would be hard pressed to find a better value in price and performance than the 718.

My purpose for getting a 718 is that it will go places and do things that my 7800 is not allowed to leave the radio room to do, such as Field Day, portable, and mobile operations. Its small size, low cost, and easy operations are perfect for this type of use.

Some of the drawbacks in the 718 are; No FM mode, only one optional filter slot, No carry handle (optional item). Fixed (non adjustable) AGC. I'll say it again, "you can't get everything" in this price class.

The 718 uses the same 13 pin DIN plug on the rear panel, just like the 706 series. This DIN plug runs all accessories, such as ICOM amplifiers, and tuners (AT-180). Provisions are also made for "non-ICOM" pieces as well.

So, here we are at the end of the article already, short & sweet, what can I say, its small, it works great, its cheap. There it is. This little radio delivers "a lot of bang for the buck".

If you have specific questions about the 718, please [e-mail](#) them to me.

A yahoo discussion group for the IC-718, click [here](#).

73 de Matt KK5DR

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