

Radio Recommendations

KI5TLZ

This is a list of basic 2m/70cm mobile radios curated by KI5TLZ. The list is from least to most expensive.

Most of the more expensive radios (\$200+) can be found used for good deals if you are willing to shop around.

In addition to the radio, you will need:

- An antenna for the frequencies that you want to use.
- Some Coax to connect the antenna to the radio
- A way to power the radio. 12v supply, car power jack, big hand crank, etc.

Budget section

I do not recommend buying these items used unless you can test them first.
Amazon and eBay are good places to find deals on these.

QYT KT-8900




This is a 20w 2m /70cm radio. It has no bells and whistles. It will transmit and it will receive. Don't expect much more. This is a very small radio. Usually about \$80.

Pro: Inexpensive, Works on repeaters. Relatively low power.

Cons:
Does not have a very good receiver.
Cheap construction.

<p>QYT KT-8900D</p> 	<p>This is a very inexpensive radio. It is just a supped up Baofeng that will do 25W. It is 2m and 70cm. It is usually about \$80.</p>	<p>Pro: Inexpensive, Works on repeaters. Relatively low power.</p> <p>Cons: Does not have a very good receiver. Cheap construction.</p>
<p>TYT-TH-8600-Mini</p> 	<p>If you want to go cheaper, it isn't a bad choice. It will do everything that your Baofeng does but not much more. 25w 2m/70cm. They tend to be about \$130.</p>	<p>Pro: Inexpensive, has some bells and whistles.</p> <p>Cons:</p>
<p>TYT-TH-9800-Cross-Band-Mobile</p> 	<p>This isn't a bad mobile radio. It has 2m, 70cm, 6m FM and 10m FM. It will also function as a crossband repeater (supposedly). They tend to sit at about \$200.</p>	<p>Pros: Works on 10m and 6m repeaters (if you can find them) as well as 2m/70cm. Based on an old design from Yaesu.</p> <p>Cons:</p>
<p>Radios From the Major Radio Brands: (Yaesu, Kenwood, Icom, Alinco) Best prices are usually on dxengineering.com or gigaparts.com Usually safe to buy used</p>		
<p>Yaesu FTM-6000</p> 	<p>Here is one from a major brand. It costs more than the other two and is somewhat basic but should last a very long time. It is 50W on 2m and 70cm. It is Usually about \$300 https://www.dxengineering.com</p>	<p>Pro: Double Super Heterodyne receiver (Hears better than Direct conversion)</p>

	ng.com/parts/ysu-ftm-6000r	
ICOM IC-2730A 	<p>Here is one from a major brand. This is 2 radios smashed into one. It allows you to listen to two repeaters at the same time. It has built in Crossband repeater</p> <p>It is 2m and 70cm FM only. 50w</p> <p>Usually about \$300</p>	<p>Pro:</p> <p>Double Super Heterodyne receiver. It has 2 receivers inside. Good warranty. Cross Band repeater Well trusted brand with lots of support.</p>
Yaesu FTM-200 	<p>The next step up from this is the Yaesu FTM-200DR. This is an FM radio and also a digital radio (Yaesu System Fusion). There are no YSF repeaters in Rexburg but there are 2 in Idaho Falls and A TON in Burley and Twin Falls area.</p> <p>Has APRS. 50w 2m/70cm</p> <p>This radio usually costs about \$400.</p>	<p>Pros:</p> <p>Double Super Heterodyne receiver. Good warranty. Well trusted brand with lots of support. YSF Digital/Wires X</p>
ID-5100A DELUXE 	<p>DSTAR Digital radio and FM. 2m/70cm 50W. Dual receivers and Crossband repeat. APRS. Touchscreen. GPS.</p>	
AnyTone AT-D578UV III 	<p>50W (mostly) TRI band 2m/1.25m/70cm DMR digital and FM radio. One of the best noncommercial DMR digital radios that you can buy. Bluetooth, 2 receivers</p> <p>Usually about \$450</p>	
The OVERKILL section.		

God tier radios with a price to match.

Yaesu FTM-500



Two ftm200's in a box with a touchscreen display, Bluetooth audio, and the ability to be run as a cross-band repeater. This radio also has YSF digital, 50w 2m/70cm. APRS, and tons more.

Usually about \$650