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Reviews Summary for Kenwood TS-50



Reviews: 38 Average rating: 4.6/5 MSRP: \$749.00

Description: The compact TS-50S packs a hefty punch.

More info: <http://www.kenwood.net>

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[LU1HQV](#) Rating: 5/5 Mar 13, 2006 17:39 [Send this review to a friend](#)

Great little radio!

Time owned: more than 12 months

I owned a ts 50/at 50 for nearly two years now.
Radio give more than 130 watts solid!!
It's little incredible good radio!!
Very, very good as first hf or movil.
Work whit at 50 have some issues 'cause just cover ham band, but it's ok.

[OZ1CQQ](#) Rating: 4/5 Feb 24, 2006 09:49 [Send this review to a friend](#)

A classic transceiver

Time owned: 3 to 6 months

The TS-50 was my first HF-radio in 1992. I have been around 15 others transceivers inclusive high end transceivers like Yaesu FT-1000MP, Kenwood TS-850, Icom IC-736 and others, but ended up with a TS-50. Both trx and rx is superb on TS-50 and can easily compare with the others high end transceivers. I use LDG Z-11Pro antenatuner and bhi NES10-2 Dps speaker with my Kenwood and it works very well.
I can only give the TS-50 four points because of the not so good internal speaker and the small vfo, otherwise it would be a 5 point.

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ST2BF Rating: 4/5 Dec 2, 2005 09:15 [Send this review to a friend](#)

Small and versatile

Time owned: more than 12 months

I have used my TS50 in Congo, Angola, the Ivory Coast and Sudan. After the hard time I have given to my unit, I can affirm it is rock solid and extremely reliable. One of the features I appreciate the most is its extremely potable size, and perhaps the fact that it is relatively unobtrusive, an advantage in countries still under the paranoia of radio espionage. I have put so far over 100K QSOs on my TS50, and it is working as good as the first day. It just looks a bit dirtier and scratched here and there. The downside to it is the stock CW filter (optional), which in my view could be a bit more efficient. For "real" base operation I would go for a bigger, heavier rig with more filters and features in it (have some woowonderful old Drakes, for instance), but for ruggedness and the type of "extreme radio" I normally do I am in no way tempted to replace my TS50 by any other radio. 73 and CU on the air
 Fernando (ST2BF, D2BB, 9Q5BB, TU5JL, EA4BB)

N4RAP Rating: 5/5 Aug 2, 2005 14:23 [Send this review to a friend](#)

The Best Out There

Time owned: more than 12 months

This will go down in history as the best all around mobile or base hf radio in history. Mark my words! I have two of these. One is my "Award Winning" mobile station in my pickup truck and one is a backup radio. All I can say is that it is great. I also have two of the matching automatic antenna tuners and they are great, too.

N4RAP
 Paris, Texas

K9YNF Rating: 5/5 Jun 1, 2005 17:51 [Send this review to a friend](#)

A PROVEN DXpedition rig!

Time owned: more than 12 months

I have owned my TS-50S since late 2002 and have taken it on two IOTA DXpeditions. Of ALL the small 100 watt HF portable rigs out there, I chose this one because it was also selected by the highly-successful Microlite Penguins' DXpedition to VP8THU. It is proven technology.

VE3TMT Rating: 5/5 Jan 24, 2005 14:40 [Send this review to a friend](#)

Excellent portable or base

Time owned: more than 12 months

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First off to N5RNY:

Sounds like you have a faulty DC-DC converter board. A very easy repair. Was common to the TS-850 and TS-50 models.

I am about to take delivery of my second TS-50 having sold my first many years ago. After deciding to downsize the shack, and selling some of my larger pieces, I decided to get another TS-50. Excellent for portable and small base station use, and typical Kenwood audio. Looking forward to putting this one in the shack and getting back on the digital modes. Too bad the matching AT-50 supply is so darn expensive. Will also invest in the crystal warmer for stability. See <http://www.kuhne-electronic.de/>

73,
Max

N5RNY Rating: 2/5 Jan 24, 2005 14:28 [Send this review to a friend](#)

ongoing problems**Time owned: more than 12 months**

Owned my TS-50 for about 10 years (give or take) and it's had its share of problems. Been in for service twice. Having more problems now. Transmit power fluctuates.

Replaced it with an Alinco DX-77t. Better receiver, and stable power output!

N5RNY

W3HKK Rating: 5/5 Jan 6, 2005 13:53 [Send this review to a friend](#)

A pleasure to use**Time owned: more than 12 months**

I've used this rig since 1995, with the AT-50, a PS-53 power supply for base station use, and added the Clearspeech Speaker for DSP when mobile. It's combination of excellent noise blanker and my outboard DSP knocks mobile noise down by 5-8 S units and makes mobiling a joy.

Rig is used with my Perth Outbacker and Hustler mobile antennas on a regular basis and work the world.

Gets regular unsolicited reports of "Great Audio OM", with the basic hand mic! In today's world of super processed audio, that sounds overly bass, mushy hollow and overloaded, this rig puts out audio that is a pleasure to listen to, even barefoot from the car.

One caveat: using the NB results in receive audio distortion, splatter/broadness in the presence of very strong signals on or near the receive frequency. So before criticising others,

turn off the NB and double check.

Maintenance: once during 9 years of heavy mobile use, the rig became intermittent and was returned to Kenwood for servicing. repairs took 2 weeks and cost \$100. No problems since.

For the money, ease of use, and performance, this rig's a keeper.

[KK5F](#) **Rating: 4/5** **Dec 22, 2004 17:29** **[Send this review to a friend](#)**

Old Design Still Solid

Time owned: more than 12 months

I notice a recent amateur radio sales brochure (from A.E.S.) says that the TS-50S is back again! I don't know if they are offering old stock, or if Kenwood has restarted production. (Maybe the goofy detached panel TS-480 isn't selling well.)

I've owned my TS-50S, with YK-107 CW filter and SO-2 TXCO, since early 1994. I cart it with me on any out-of-town trip I make. It makes a great ham transceiver and shortwave receiver. I love using it from a campground, powered by a deep-discharge battery. I've used most of the later miniature HF rigs, yet I find no temptation to retire this very solid radio, especially since I DISLIKE radios with detachable front panels.

I believe that the CW filter option is mandatory, and according to the US Civil Air Patrol at: https://ntc.cap.af.mil/comm/equipment/hf_equipment.cfm the unit with the SO-2 TXCO installed meets NTIA specs for use in those government services that require radios to be NTIA compliant. Not bad for an old rig, when many of the most modern sets are NOT compliant.

I've found the noise blanker to be very effective on the types of noise I've encountered. About the only feature I really miss is some sort of notch filter, and I really would NOT mind having six meter capability built-in.

I find that the AT-50 tuner works well, yet normally I use a small MFJ-971 manual tuner that lets me control the antenna match exactly. I added a tuner bypass switch to the MFJ-971, and a connection can be made to the TS-50S accessory connector to provide the 971 SWR meter backlighting whenever the TS-50 is turned on. The AT-50 cannot be bypassed, so if you wish to listen to, say, AM broadcast stations, a lot of received signal gets attentated in the AT-50 unless you loosen a coax shield connection.

[IK6IOQ](#) **Rating: 4/5** **Oct 26, 2004 06:22** **[Send this review to a friend](#)**

Piccolo ma grande !!

Time owned: 6 to 12 months

Ho comprato ed utilizzato il TS 50 S per circa un anno, e devo dire che va assolutamente bene.
La qualità della ricezione in SSB ma anche in AM è ottima, non intermodula. In trasmissione molti di coloro che mi hanno collegato si sono complimentati per l'ottima modulazione.
Ho utilizzato il TS 50 solo in macchina collegando perfino l'australia !!
Essendo però un apparato che risale a circa 15 anni fa ha delle carenze strutturali: Manca infatti il rosmetro, la potenza può essere regolata solo per 10 - 50 - 100 watt, manca il manipolatore interno per il cw.
Per tutti questi motivi l'ho rivenduto per ben 500 € ed adesso aspetto di comprare un FT 100 D usato.
Vi farò sapere quale dei due è meglio.....

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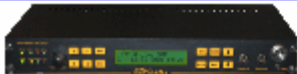
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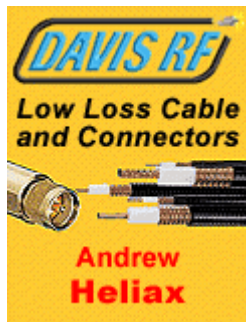
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[PA0FRI](#) Rating: 5/5 Aug 5, 2004 08:16 [Send this review to a friend](#)
speech processor Time owned: more than 12 months

I owned this radio since March 1993 and it has never gave me any problem even if I used it for testing home brew PA's, ATU's and LPF's. It lacks a speech processor and I designed in 1994 a double sideband clipper. Using the stock mic. the IF processor gave a useful boost to the average power output. See the mod at: <http://home.planet.nl/~fhvgeerligs>.

[PA3GPA](#) Rating: 5/5 Aug 3, 2004 12:20 [Send this review to a friend](#)
Deserves more credit Time owned: 3 to 6 months

I can understand why Kenwood still produces the TS-50, so many years after it was introduced. This is a very good straight-forward little transceiver for ham's that do not care much about exclusive features. IMHO it still beats the modern portable Yaesu's and Icoms. I replaced the standard SSB filter with the INRAD 2.1 KHz filter (soldering out and in is delicate!) and now the rig has promoted to 'excellent'. I purchased my TS-50 second hand, together with a used AT-50, both in a mint condition for 700 Euro's. In Europe that's a fair price for this fine little rig + auto tuner. I can advise this one to everyone, and, if you already have one, don't sell it. You'll be sorry.....

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[K4JF](#) **Rating: 5/5** **May 29, 2004 20:54** [Send this review to a friend](#)

Great Rig

Time owned: more than 12 months

I have owned for 5 years, and find it hard to beat for the purpose. Of course it doesn't have all the bells & whistles my TS-870 has, but you can't use them mobile anyway. (VOX would be nice when portable, though.) I use the AT-50 tuner mounted in the back near the Hustler antenna and have worked all over with it. It is now in a "go bag" for emergencies and for travel. Rugged, excellent receive and I get great reports on my signal. What more can you ask? Quite probably the best bang for the buck (and the size) out there.

[KD4FUN](#) **Rating: 5/5** **May 29, 2004 18:01** [Send this review to a friend](#)

Great Radio

Time owned: 6 to 12 months

I have owned the TS-50 along with the AT-50 tuner for about six months. I use a Texas Bug Catcher in the mobile. I use a heavy pwr cord, 10 gauge fused on both leads and run about 100 watts P.E.P. mobile The TS-50 has a quiet receiver and if I can hear em I can work em most of the time. The antenna tuner is pretty fast, a little noisy but does not get a whole lot of use with the Bug Catcher. Wish the noise Blanker was a little more robust, but I cannot really complain. I get good audio reports with the supplied microphone. Very pleased with the radio overall, it's enjoyable to work HF while mobile!

[G3OZN](#) **Rating: 5/5** **May 29, 2004 03:29** [Send this review to a friend](#)

A beauty mobile/portable

Time owned: 0 to 3 months

A great mobile /portable rig
No dx unworkable with a Hustler aerial set up.
Brilliant receiver, and audio reports always good
Not cheap in UK (£620)
I have worked HF mobile for 40 yrs with various rigs and this one is the tops!
Even fits in the glove box of my Renault Megane car.
Wondering whether to purchase an AT50 tuner
73s Ted

[ON4MGY](#) **Rating: 5/5** **Feb 16, 2004 09:47** [Send this review to a friend](#)

Great little transceiver

Time owned: 0 to 3 months

I needed a mobile HF rig so I've changed my Yaesu FT-840 for a TS-50. It thought performance would be about the same, with an easier operating of the FT-840. On the TS-50 I'm missing the adjustable output power and the ALC meter (great for doing



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RTTY) but the receiver outperforms the FT-840, although I initially thought there wouldn't be much difference. There are some minor points about the TS-50, but it performs really great. I have the impression it's a better receiver than my Yaesu FT-817 with 2.3kHz Collins SSB filter.

I used to be a Yaesu-lover, but with buying the TS-50 and a couple of months ago the TS-830S, I'm choosing for Kenwood instead of Yaesu from now on.
Nic ON4MGY

[HP1KL](#)

Rating: 5/5

Feb 11, 2004 15:34

[Send this review to a friend](#)

Very nice radio

Time owned: 0 to 3 months

After much review reading and cost analysis, I went ahead and purchased a TS-50 from AES in Orlando. I am very pleased with the radio's performance and AES delivery. The TS-50 replaces my malfunctioning FT-747-GX. My other HF rig is my faithful TS-520, which I purchased new in 1977 and still has the original tubes. The TS-50 fills my SW listening requirements. Only problem is that my 27-amp power supply is five times as large and 10 times as heavy as the TS-50!. I hope to solve this with a MFJ 23-amp switching power supply, which I hope is not noisy. Anyway, I feel that one cannot go wrong with Kenwood.

BTW, does anyone know the menu setting to make the meter read REFLECTED POWER?

73's - Tony Conte - HP1KL

[K2LAW](#)

Rating: 5/5

Jan 19, 2004 05:03

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Excellent

Time owned: more than 12 months

Bought the TS-50 used- I know at least 3rd hand- and have been totally pleased with it. In a 2 ham household, with me susceptible to extended "overseas visits"- needed two complete HF stations- and both needed to be MARS capable. The TS-50 filled the bill beautifully. No complaints at all. Use it for SSB and PSK-31 mostly- have received glowing mobile signal reports on 80M with just a Hamstick- like the controls- only reason it's not going into the mobile permanently is the space issue- I have to be able to remote the faceplate in the truck. Love the rig. Decided years ago that I don't want a do everything rig- IMHO HF and VHF/UHF deserve their own rigs- learned this from a 706 owner who was complaining that he couldn't work 2M and 10M concurrently during a bike race we were supporting- he fixed it by adding an IC-2720 in the truck. Great performance even in the MARS bands. Might have to find another one if the XYL decides to do some serious HF operating from the shack.

Howard
K2LAW

[VE7REN](#) Rating: 4/5 Jan 18, 2004 17:47 [Send this review to a friend](#)

holy cow!!!!

Time owned: 0 to 3 months

got the radio a week ago, and first thing i noticed was the clean layout, well layed out, fitted craftsmanship. pretty heavy liitle brute. i like all aspects of this radio. wouldnt hesitate to buy it again. wouldve gave it a 5 but only downfall is the buttons are a little small, and not protruding out enough for a big set of hands, so 4 is fair.

[KT4OA](#) Rating: 5/5 Jan 14, 2004 16:15 [Send this review to a friend](#)

Best KISS Radio on the Market IMHO

Time owned: more than 12 months

I've owned this radio for 9 years and it has never given me any problems. It is used as my main rig along with an AT-50. Good enough receiver for me for CW work and the notch works very well when other stations are moving in on the freq. Works excellent with a RIGBlaster on at least RTTY and keyed CW with no over-heating issues. I recommend this radio to those that like something simple to use with an easy to read faceplate and freq readout. No fuss and no muss.

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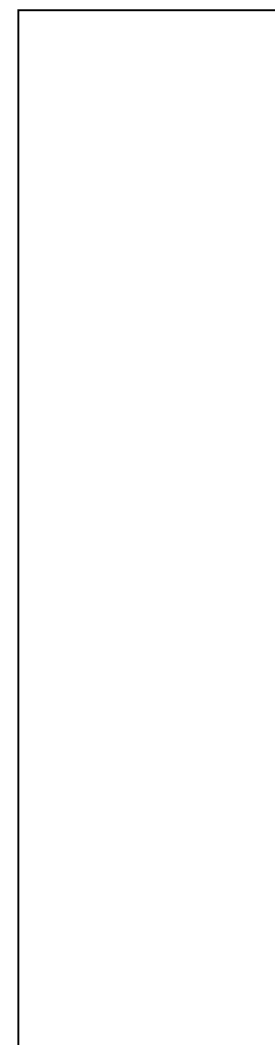
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|--|-------------|--|--|
| K4AJR | Rating: 5/5 | Aug 2, 2003 12:04 | Send this review to a friend |
| Solid Performer for years | | Time owned: more than 12 months | |
| <p>I installed the TS-50 on my 34' cruising sailboat in 1995, using an SGC-230 antenna tuner to tune an insulated backstay. It has been a rock-solid performer for eight years, in a wide variety of conditions, from the Bahamas to the northern Chesapeake. Reports are great, ease of operation is great, trouble-free performance is wonderful. Variety of input voltage levels doesn't seem to be a problem, nor does it FM when running on batteries like some rigs. It may not have all the features of newer compact HF/VHF/UHF rigs, but you can't go wrong with the TS-50S if you want a workhorse compact HF rig that just keeps on going, and going, and going . . .</p> | | | |
| KB4QLZ | Rating: 5/5 | Feb 26, 2003 06:34 | Send this review to a friend |
| A+ | | Time owned: 0 to 3 months | |
| <p>Purchased used in near mint condition. Controls easy to get to while mobile. Works great with Hamstick HF Mobile Antennas.</p> | | | |



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KG3X Rating: 5/5 Feb 5, 2003 16:47 [Send this review to a friend](#)

Legend

Time owned: 6 to 12 months

I use mobile everyday on 40. This rig has hardly changed in more then a decade, yet it still sells well. Excellent model. Best mobile HF.

NM, KG3X

K4JT Rating: 5/5 Feb 1, 2003 19:38 [Send this review to a friend](#)

Took a lickin' & kept on tickin'

Time owned: more than 12 months

Bought it in 1997 w/cw filter. Spent almost 2 years sailing the Caribbean in my 37' Catamaran. Poor baby took an awful beating from the salt air (and some salt water). I used a simple L-network.

Spend a few months on St. Lucia as J67SL. What fun with an indoor piece of wire. Call worth 15 db.

Been a ham for 51 years and this one fine little package. Finally a rig which lived up to my unreasonable expectations.

K4JT (The Jewel Thief)

EA2FL Rating: 4/5 Jan 7, 2003 09:10 [Send this review to a friend](#)

Classic. Great mobile and base for the money.

Time owned: more than 12 months

I bought it 9 years ago and I took it every day mobile until I sold that car. I had a great time even if NB was not good enough for a mobile rig.

Good audio TX&RX since IF SSB filter was almost flat between 350 and 2800Hz, a bit wide but went 10dB down at 200 and 2900Hz and 20dB at 100 and 3050Hz. Narrow SSB not available even though there is room to fit one at the CW place. Does anybody know where to buy a good one? Please write to jtrueba@euskalnet.net.

Ergonomics are very good, easy to use with main dial, bands and MHz up&down, A&B VFO's and M/V and M>V keys switching memory to VFO.

4 programmable keys, plus up&down on the mic was a good idea; I set them for 1Hz readout, PWR control, Fast/Slow AGC and Hi/Low mic gain. Frequency stability very good (no need for compensated option), and RIT and IF shift very convenient.

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Receiver sensitivity was good but AIP/ATT combinations were useless for mobile, maybe that works for base use, with a long antenna near high RF levels, but I'd rather prefer a good NB for this kind of rig. Power can be adjusted while in QSO, so the fan is not working all the time. I adjusted L-M-Hi power to 1, 50 and 100 watts, even though max power could go up to 130.

It was easy, but took my time, to adjust internally the S-meter curve with the 5 pots provided. I got standard values of 4 dB's between units up to 20uV for S9, and 20mV for 9+60.

I didn't buy an AT50 tuner, but must be useful located at the trunk since there is a Tune key built in the TS50. You can use it at home too, with any radio.

It lacks Speech Processor wich you wouldn't use while running, with all the noise of the road, but it's a nice feature while parked. The Inrad filter plus processor combination must be a good thing. Where can I buy one? Please write to jtrueba@euskalnet.net

[KB3GWI](#) Rating: **5/5** Aug 31, 2002 15:52 [Send this review to a friend](#)

A Classic, tried & trusted design...

Time owned: 0 to 3 months

Just picked up a TS-50 on ebay. I am a portable/mobile ham much of the time, so a smaller rig was necessary. I have a TM-733, and am somewhat biased to Kenwood, so I did not want a 706, FT100, or the like.

Great reception, nasty RF punch (130W for me), and good clear audio. Pefect for application. Is it a IC756, 775 or TS2000? Of course not. People should keep this fact in mind. Its not meant to have every feature. But trust me it holds its own with the big guns.

Good solid radio, tried and trusted design.

NM, KB3GWI

[K2XH](#) Rating: **5/5** Jul 28, 2002 12:14 [Send this review to a friend](#)

good rig built tough

Time owned: more than 12 months

For around 650\$ new you can't ask much better I hear those who say it does not have enough bells and wistles, well, it has good rx and if shift the noise blanker works for what it was intended for electrical noise. Tx audio is excelent, and mine has run flawlessly for two years mobile, in both extreme hot and cold temps. I hope Kenwood keeps making this radio, its as good as It should be for the price.

[GI0ZGB](#) Rating: **5/5** Mar 16, 2002 17:17 [Send this review to a friend](#)

Enhanced TS-50S performance.**Time owned: more than 12 months**

This is the third TS-50S I have purchased.

I fitted it with the Inrad 2.1 Khz SSB filter and an R.F. Processor which uses the filter as part of its' circuit, and a TX Monitor unit.

The improvement in selectivity was impressive, adjacent interference was much less obvious and easily obliterated by the I.F. Shift control. Using the stock mic the R.F. Processor gave a useful boost to the AVERAGE power output and was used to good advantage especially working QRP. The TX Monitor worked very well, helping me keep my voice at a level which was beneficial to producing good transmitted audio, something which drew many complimentary remarks. Both units are switchable via existing buttons and menu items. I've used the Yaesu FT-100D, the Icom IC-706Mk2 and the Alinco-DX70TH, I much prefer the TS-50S especially in modified format, but in fairness the other rigs are much more broadbanded and the overall performance must be compromised to some extent as a consequence. The TS-50S is a classic rig, it's not perfect by any means but what rig, regardless of cost, is perfect, it hasn't been made yet. The transmitted audio even in standard format is as good as much more expensive rigs, the Alinco also standing out in this respect, the influence of Ex-Kenwood design engineers clearly obvious. There's lots of basic improvements I would wish to see Kenwood make, going digital is not one of them, but I suppose that would not be economically viable pushing the cost of the rig into competition with the likes of the TS-570DG and similar. Enabling the TX Monitor is as follows:

1. Access the menu by holding FLock.
2. Select menu 70(mic key 4)using the up/down keys select 82 this is the monitor.
3. Hold FLock for a few seconds to exit.
4. Enable FLock.
5. Press and hold mic key 4.
6. Press and hold Split button.
7. Release mic key 4.
8. Release Split button.
9. Disable FLock.

The TX Monitor is now semi-permanently enabled for hands free operation which is much better than squeezing the PTT and one of the programmable mic keys' at the same time. It may be disabled at any time by pressing mic key 4 or switching the rig off and on again. The same method can be used for 8 digit display only program the mic key 70/85 for example, however the RIT display will be disabled. Finally, please note, any attempted modifications are the responsibility of the owner of the rig.

Gerry, Gi0ZGB 73.

[26MR75](#)**Rating: 4/5****Mar 6, 2002 14:15****[Send this review to a friend](#)****[mods/ts50s/kenwood](#)****Time owned: 6 to 12 months**

hi fellow kenwood follows.

i've had my ts50 now for about a year and i must say what guts it has ,all packed in a nice black box .i recently being trying to find data on the mods for this radio,but have only found the basics eg. double zero on display,qrp setiing L/M/HIGH & also full tx .is there any more that any body can suggest that realy do work ??.

i'm currently running a length of 2491x1/0 in black across my garden @ 2 and a half feet and on 45mts i 'm finding it fantastic. for all the hams out ther i nly listen to this band .but going back to this compact and bayshu rig , ITS A CORKER .
73s from 26mr75

email mods to kenwood@talk21.com

[N3DQU](#) **Rating: 5/5** **Jun 27, 2001 11:08** **[Send this review to a friend](#)**

Keeps on tickin'...

Time owned: more than 12 months

Have owned a TS-50S for almost two years now, bought her to replace a year-old SG-2020 (see my disgruntled review of the '2020 elsewhere). Whilst the TS-50S is not a backpacker-type rig, it does just about anything else you ask it to do and does it well. This rig is now my main shack rig, also use it on PSK without any problems whatsoever. For Field Day I ran the TS-50S@ 50w off of a deep cycle battery and solar cell with nary a hiccup, latchup, cpu, heat problem, etc. Only complaint is that she doesn't have a built-in keyer, but other than that, this rig takes a lickin' es keeps on tickin'!In my opinion, the TS-50S is one of the least appreciated rigs out there.

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Reviews Summary for Kenwood TS-50



Reviews: 38 Average rating: 4.6/5 MSRP: \$749.00

Description: The compact TS-50S packs a hefty punch.

More info: <http://www.kenwood.net>

You can [write your own review](#) of the Kenwood TS-50.

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[JIMBOB](#) Rating: 5/5 Jun 17, 2001 12:43 [Send this review to a friend](#)

brilliant audio reports

Time owned: more than 12 months

i ran a ts50 for 2 years after the icom 706 mk1 and a alinco dx70, the ts50 beat both of these hands down,you couldnt hear anything on the 706 for broadband and the dx70 was great apart from the rotary dial wearing,the ts50 was great on recieve and every other station would comment on how good the audio sounded on the standard stock mike,people always rant and rave on the ts50 haveing no processor but if you listen to one you will find they dont need one,they sound clear,loud and give a nice natural sound to the audio, the 706 icom had to have a modification to the mike to make it sound half decent but it never came near to the good sounding audio from the ts50,let everyone pay silly prices for there icom706mk11 and you go out and buy the ts50 at half the price and get better audio reports all day long AND A BETTER RADIO IN MY OPINION.

[N1JAO](#) Rating: 5/5 Sep 16, 2000 22:35 [Send this review to a friend](#)

Why re-invent the wheel?

Time owned: more than 12 months

I have owned the ts-50 for almost 2 years now and I love it. It does anything I ask it to, and

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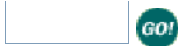
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definitely does pack a punch. I have always admired Kenwood's ability to not pander to the "green lights, 6 different model" seekers out there. If you want pretty lights and lots of buttons, go to a video arcade. If you want a tried and true durable kick-butt little rig- get a ts-50. You will NEVER regret it!

[VK2KDG](#) **Rating: 4/5** **Aug 18, 2000 01:42** [Send this review to a friend](#)

My first radio

Time owned: more than 12 months

I purchased one new, just before getting my license, around 7 years ago. It has never given me a problem, working the world using a G5RV.

I have since purchased a TS570 D(G). The TS 50 was recently taken out of "moth balls", when I needed to put the TS 570 in for a modification. The radio worked beautifully, but missed a few features. One being the Speech Compressor, and secondly, the amount of intermod present, particularly on the lower bands. I really needed to add some attenuation and take out the preselector, to restore the signal quality.....

Apart from this, the radio is very sensitive, works very well, and I always get a good audio report, no matter how poor the signal strength.

For portable, mobile, or for someone with limited space, this is a great radio, and suited me in the early days. I now use it as a back-up radio, or when I want to go portable.

[KG8ZH](#) **Rating: 5/5** **May 18, 2000 15:54** [Send this review to a friend](#)

Great rig

Time owned: more than 12 months

I have been using the ts-50 for 2 years now. I purchased it new and part of my decision to go with the ts-50 instead of the Alinco DX70 or the IC-706 was based on the recommendation of the man at the radio store where i bought it. After taking it home, I got it fired up and fel in love with it. One problem popped up. after it was eleven days old, the finals blew. I took it back where I bought it. The rig went back to Kenwood and I got it back in seven days. Since then it has worked great. I added a yk-107 500hz cw filter. I have heard several reports of people being less than satisfied with the Kenwood cw filter, but have not experienced any of the problems that others have experienced. I believe that the later model ts-50's are actually better than the ones produced a few years ago. Its a mature product and all the bugs are worked out. Sensitivity is better than my Yaesu ft-840. And Selectivity is equal to my IC-751A. At least to my ears it is. I have just added a AT-50 autotuner as well and I'm very happy with that product too. The older AT-50's had a problem with fuses blowing, but again, I believe this has been corrected in the newer units (i have used this tuner on some very big mismatches including a 40 meter dipole on 80 meters) and the fuse is still in tact. Mine is a week old, but

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so far it has taken everything I have thrown at it. Another plus is that you can use the AT-50 on any rig. There is a tune button on the rig for full compatability with the ts-50, but there is also a tune button on the tuner and with the supplied adapter, you can run it on all your rigs. Tuning range is great too. I can tune my g5rv on all bands with it. This was a big suprise because this is the only autotuner I ever saw that would tune a g5rv on all bands. I know there are newer rigs like the ft-100 and ic-706g, but I have no desire to let go of my ts-50 for one. It dont have 2 meters or 70cm in it, but the money you will save with the ts-50 will pay for a nice dual band VHF/UHF rig. Personally, I would rather have seperate HF and VHF rigs than to have all my eggs in one basket. As long as my ts-50 keeps working well, I plan to keep it forever.

Chuck KG8ZH

[JA7UDE](#)

Rating: 3/5

Mar 2, 2000 19:27

[Send this review to a friend](#)

It was a great moble rig.

Time owned: unknown months

When Kenwood released TS-50 to the market, I was shocked at its size and performance. I at once bought one with an external automatic antenna tuner for mobile. It has a great user interface that allows me to easily run all the functions it is equipped. I had a trouble in the antenna tuner. Its internal fuse was frequently blown when I transmitted on the 80-meter band. I sent it back to Kenwood and they immediately fixed it by adding a capacitor. Their service was excellent. I really enjoyed many domestic and DX QSOs in mobile. I like the touch feelings of buttons, switches, and dials on the front panel. I personally think the design is superior to ICOM and YAESU mobile transceivers. I had used mine for about 3 years until I replaced it with an ICOM IC-706. Although my TS-50 was completely flawless (except the external tuner trouble I stated above), I was not happy with the receiver performance. In particular, I did not like its poor selectivity against QRM. I believe TS-50 'was' a good mobile rig.

[NR0J](#)

Rating: 4/5

Feb 27, 2000 14:31

[Send this review to a friend](#)

TS-50 is already a classic

Time owned: unknown months

I have two TS50 xcvsr, one that has been mobile for 6 years, and another that has been all over the world as my portable station. The portable rig has an honest 500K frequent flyer miles.

I operate 99% CW,.. the rig's QSK is perfect. The design and implementation is very robust. Go pop the cover on one and look inside. I salute the engineer who laid out those little preselector daughter PCB's on edge..

The only thing I never liked about the radio was the quality of the narrow CW filter, and it's propensity for ringing in the presence of QRN. This deficiency is not enough to make me switch to any of the other small rigs. (most of which were designed, with VHF, to pander to the no code tech market).

I've operated these rigs in some really hostile RF environments, like Eastern Europe, and SE Asia; on 40 meters. IM is not a problem, if you are discreet with the preamp and attn. In these situations, (like being next door to the BBC xmtr in Singapore) you should be using a tuner, as a preselector, anyway.

I spoke with one of the aftermarket filter manufacturers, back in '95 about a quality CW filter for the rig, to no avail. If anyone is making one, I'd sure like to know.

I've seen a few of these on the market for \$500.

That's a heck of a deal...73 nr0j,pr7zj,9m2oj

[VE3EFJ](#) **Rating: 3/5** **Feb 27, 2000 10:46** [Send this review to a friend](#)

Glitz, but where's the radio?

Time owned: unknown months

The Kenwood TS-50 started it all with these mini radios. It was ground breaking at the time, but Kenwood, instead of improving it has decided to milk a 10 year old radio design. In todays terms, it doesn't hold up. The blanker is useless, the receiver is broad and intermods, no VOX and perhaps worst of all, no wire bail. If you can find one at a good price used, by all means do so, but in this century I would not buy one new.

[KC2DIA](#) **Rating: 5/5** **Feb 25, 2000 11:27** [Send this review to a friend](#)

Radio Excellent in All Categories!

Time owned: unknown months

Let me get down to the point:

Receive on all bands is excellent, even on the broadcast band.

Very well built, the 2SC2879 finals a nice plus!

Relatively quiet fan.

TX Carrier insert point adjust for USB,LSB works excellent.

Negative attribute: Could use a narrow SSB filter option, however, a narrow filter for SSB could be placed in the CW filter slot EVEN though this is NOT mentioned in the manual. A notch filter would be nice too.

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