

How do I?

An occasional series

This week: HF Go Kit

I enjoy portable operations. Whether its operating with a club at Field Day or in the PA QSO Party or simply from the porch at my dad's, it's fun to get outside. I am always searching for better ways to get out and play radio.



What is my “go kit”? Currently it is an Icom 718 HF (160 to 10 meter) radio capable of operating on voice (SSB), CW or various digital modes such as RTTY, and PSK31. I try to keep it simple and recently found a way to eliminate one box.

What do I carry? A metal case (a repurposed tool box such as a copier service person might use), containing the radio, a LDG tuner, hand microphone, headphones, Tigertroncs Signalink and a member of the MFJ Might Lite [™] portable power supply family. The MFJ power supply has 5 way binding posts. I ran a piece of wire from each to an Anderson Powerpole connector. The box also contains all the necessary cables and a Rigrunner [™] fuse block as well as a paper log book, a world map, a radio atlas and call sign directory, the radio manual and the ARRL operating manual. The rest of the kit consists of my Eagleone [™] 80 to 10m portable antenna and tripod, and a bag containing the radials, ground stakes, etc. Add an extension cord if running off shore power or a battery (see *Box Radio* elsewhere in this series) or a generator, and a table and chair and you are good to go! A shady porch, the neighbor's dog and a glass of home made iced tea are all optional!

Because of the modular design of the components I can easily swap out the Icom 718 for a Yaesu 857D or even a Yaesu 817. Optional items include a canopy or tent. For operating digital modes such as RTTY and PSK31 I add a laptop with the appropriate software. See *HF Portable* elsewhere in these series for more details on the antenna and

some other items. If you are part of an EMCOMM team you will want to see what radios they recommend and perhaps substitute an icom 7300 or 7200 or Yaseu 991A as they may give you additional bands and be more robust for certain modes like FT8 or JT9 or JT65.

Catch ya on the air!

