

FT-1000D and FT-1000

[\[home \]](#)

The question is easily answered: there is no difference!
Both model names designates exactly the same transceiver.
So why this D-model then?

Well, the thing is when FT-1000 where constructed and sold it was delivered to all the brand representatives around the world (at this time in history there where such ones) with empty slots for CW and SSB filters. There was no TXCO installed either. Just a simpler reference oscillator. In the SUB receiver there where no dedicated antenna connector on the rear panel as the BPF-1 unit was not installed.

Now, in the western part of the world (compared to Europe) some customers started to whine about not-a-complete-radio-despite-the-pricelevel, sort of. Well, such a whining was not without the understanding of everyone. What ever, Yaesu decided to accomodate their customers.

Then Yaesu was renowned to listen to the market and fully loaded FT-1000 transceivers where let out. To avoid mixing ups it got the designation FT-1000D. The Yaesu way of designations differed from what Icom did (IC-756,-PRO,-PROII,-PROIII) like doing a new construction in some way and telling it is a upgraded version. Yaesu kept the one construction and added something to the designation telling it was more stuff included that to some customers would come as options. The same with the FT-1000 and the D version.

Anyone may have an opinion about it but this is what was done. It worked and everyone was happy about it. Europeans still had the empty slotted model and the US had the full monty. As history has told us there would later be lots of questions arising about why's and what's. Now you know.

The FT-1000D may be hard to tell by identity as the actual D letter is on the rear panel, on the serial number plate. The front may not hold other than the plain FT-1000 word. Many D's have reached Europe beside the "non-D". Nowadays it does not matter anymore. Then, it did. Why? Because some brand representatives did not want to keep employed technicians occupied with radios they have not sold. Time is money, right? Besides, the radios where cheaper in the US. Why? That is another story not to be told here, not now.

In Japan there was a version of this big transceiver that was designated FT-1020. This one was for the domestic market only. License restriction of 10W transmitters where in effect. It is not known (to me) wether any of those made their way to other markets as well. Probably not.

So, the conclusion is that all FT-1000 imported to Europe and sold there had no D letter. Outside Europe (the US) there where over the years both but mainly D's.

To put things together in the light of knowledge and nostalgia:
First we had the FT-ONE. A mighty radio. Military graded, sort of. At that time. Even qualified its entrance in the picture "The Golden Rendevous" (book by the author Alistair MacLean) where the radio officer was the first one to suffer. Old picture and old radio but not then. The FT-ONE is representing end of 1970 and beginning 1980. The end time of the VFO's and starting time of CAT's (not the

mewing ones but the Computer Aided Transceiver) having the printed cards mounted in slots. Very sophisticated then.

The FT-980 was the first one to scratch on the computers serial interface, though. The first CAT transceiver made in a lot was the FT-757GX, -II which I have had hundreds of on my work bench during my years. This one radio has its own history and will not be told here.

About 10 years after the FT-ONE, the new big radio was on the market, the FT-1000. Or, the FT-1000D if preferred.

This transceiver got surrounded by other models. The FT-990, FT-890 and FT-900. The baby brother of FT-1000 was the FT-990. The other two were 12V-radios and the latter had a front panel that was detachable for diversified mount. There were also an FT-650. This one was a 15-6 mb transceiver but without the CAT system that now were commonly adapted elsewhere in the Yaesu radios. In a short time there were even two versions of the FT-990. Two different appearances. Looked just the same but there were a slight difference regarding the RF processing. Same designations the both of them. Not even mentionable.

On the other hand there is one interesting thing to point out concerning the FT-990. This transceiver model was the first one to have the "VFOA=VFOB"-button. Kenwood has had that for years while each one of us Yaesu-fans wondered what was the fuzz about not having it! At last, there it was. As FT-990 came out after the FT-1000 the big guy did not get that button.

In 1995 the FT-1000MP was the new star. A new "kilo". The suffix MP was a dedication to the late Hasegawa Sr /JA1MP/ who recently had passed away. A very nice remembrance. This FT-1000MP was not a follower to the FT-1000 everyone had come to know. Merely a follower to the FT-990. Front panel was made by the influence of the big contesters of that time. Therefore this one may be set to be the first Contester's racing radio. Sort of a Formula 1 radio. Every one button and regulating item was put on its place on the front where it would best suit for convenience and less distraction. Astonishing in its way of ergonomics.

During the 1990's there were a new aspect of security awareness entered into the market that involved the LVD (Low Voltage Directive) as well as the EMC. The FT-1000MP entered the market even as a clean 12VDC-transceiver. This happened in Europe during the forming of the EEC and harmonising of regulatory.

The 12V version of the FT-1000MP had the 12V inlet connection and inside there were an empty space where the power supply was missing. The connector for AC on the rear was there and the cable with connector inside. For those who needed the power supply it was sold as a spare part or optional and was designated FP-29. Even the FT-990 power supply (spare part only) FP-27 fit perfectly in the MP.

About six years after the FT-1000MP entered the market the next "kilo" was let out; the FT-1000MP Mark-V. The suffix Mark-V was for the five differences from the former MP (the Roman V is equal to 5) indicating 1/200W, 2/VRF, 3/Digital Shift&Width, 4/A-class TX and 5/DSP. The rest was the same as the former one.

Commonly mentioned as the "mark-five" it had a separate power supply as there were not space enough inside to have it there. The 200W output power amplifier needed space and cooling flanges.

Some customers looked at it as if two boxes where too much comparing to the earlier FT-1000MP. Yeasu acted on that by manufacturing a 100W version a couple of years later, the FT-1000MP Field. Being attentive here there was no MP Mark-V Field as one of the five differences now was gone by staying at the 100W power amplifier level. So, the Field is a FT-1000MP Mark-IV (4) Field? Following the logic mind this would be. Interesting however, is that the M-V and the Field where both without the ability to use bandwidth filter independant to mode. Users doing RTTY AFSK could no longer use 500Hz or 250Hz filtering as in the FT-1000 and FT-1000MP.

And still, there where no follower to the FT-1000 by that time.

All this have been the battle ground for confusing discussions going on for years about the "kilo"-radios. Often someone says "I have an MP" or "I've got a FT-1000". Meaning what exactly? The difference is tremendous. An FT-1000(D) and another FT-1000-something is totally different. Beleive no else. Furthermore, do not even think that the FT-2000 is a follower to the FT-1000(D). It is not. The question is: is there really a follower to the FT-1000(D)? Maybe the FTdx9000 or FTdx5000? Probably. If the speaker sound is as good, why not.

By the way, the age of a radio is not a main reason to decide wether it is good or bad. Even a very good radio with the most complex signal handling abilities is totally worthless in the hands of a bad operator, right?

We all know that it's not the piano that makes the player...

Lastly, the CW sign for the letter V is dih-dih-dih-dah. The fifth symphony by Bethoven starts Dih-Dih-Dih-Daaah. So, who was first? Bethoven or Morse?