



KX3 versus FT-817ND



Dear Attendees,

For mountaintop operating, the Elecraft KX3 and the Yaesu FT-817ND are two popular transceivers. I have used both rigs for years. I would like to compare the two rigs first with a YouTube video from Jim Mullen, KK1W

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWWG6YGb2aQ>

and afterwards based on my own experience. The YouTube video is not a scientific comparison, but even so it has been viewed by more than 80,000 people and, in my opinion, is worth watching.

Advantages of the KX3 compared to the FT-817ND

- Far better technical specs
- Dual roofing filter
- Optional internal antenna tuner
- Large display and knobs
- Storage of 6 Morse Code text passages
- Morse Code decoding
- Better manual
- PSK
- Optional Panadapter and 100W amplifier

Disadvantages of the KX3 compared to the FT-817ND

- More than twice as expensive
- Clearly larger and somewhat heavier
- Clearly less waterproof
- Morse Code paddle unusable for SOTA
- More susceptible to operating errors due to multiple functions assigned to keys (how much sense does it make to be able to switch on the preamp and the attenuator at the same time?)
- Sensitive to heat and direct sunlight
- Sensitive to supply voltages > 16V
- Weaker audio output
- zipper noise when scanning a band

My conclusions in a table:

Length of hike / WX	Short and dry	Long and dry but not hot	Very long and dry
	KX3 with KXPA100	KX3	Mountain Topper, ATS4

Length of hike / WX	Short and wet	Long and wet or vy hot	Very long and wet
	FT-857D	FT-817ND	Better stay at home!

In all other cases, I use the FT-817ND!

Looking forward to some SOTA QSOs with you soon! 73 de HB9BIN, Jürg (George)