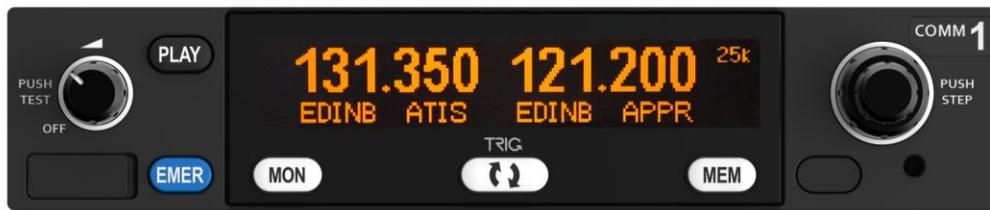

TY96A VHF RADIO - PRODUCT REVIEW



BETTER BY DESIGN

More pilots are deciding to install avionics from UK company, Trig Avionics. Founded in 2004, Trig has an established global dealer and support network. Interestingly, Trig claims that their 'Better by Design' ethos results in certified products with the best mix of quality, features and value. Their most recent



stack VHF radio, the TY96A and TY97A certainly merit consideration. This product review looks at the features and benefits of Trig and compares these to the leading brand, the Garmin GTR 225.

'SLIMLINE' - FEATURE RICH

Most pilots in the market for a certified VHF stack radio are replacing a defective radio in a Part 23 airplane. The 'slimline' form factor of the TY96A is immediately appealing, and encouragingly the design does not undermine its practicality or its control Interfaces.

The TY96A is only 1.3" inches tall, the same height as the old, but popular Garmin SL40 radio.

This makes it an obvious SL40 replacement option. Indeed, the slimline TY96A creates space in any stack. Today all pilots appreciate the option for saving space and weight, making room for other avionics, so here the Trig radio really delivers.

But can a lighter, slimline unit provide a compelling range of features? It seems that it can.

The TY96A is a 10-watt radio, the TY97A is the 16-watt version. Each radio has a clear bright display with an easy-to-use interface. The buttons are reassuringly tactile and positive, an advantage in bumpy air. The knobs are weighted and graduated in feel, providing useful feedback.

The TY96A can connect to compatible GPS and EFIS units, allowing on-route radio frequencies to be browsed, selected and loaded onto the radio display.

Manual frequency selection is straight forward using the dual right hand control knob. Most selections are made using the custom database for frequencies and identifiers. This is well laid out, with a range of idents for ATIS, approach, tower etc. available.

With no costly database this gives the pilot complete control. A PC is used to create a CSV file and your database is loaded into the radio in a matter of seconds. Trig even provides a branded USB stick in



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the box. This flexibility is appealing. The ability to customize a frequency list for each flight makes the TY96A well suited to flight schools and groups. Student pilots can load their own specific frequencies, as part of their pre-flight planning. Of course, you can set up the database and make no changes - 200 frequencies can take you a long way!

ORIGINAL THINKING

Trig has designed a feature into the TY96A that is redundant for highly polished and radio perfect pilots. For the rest of us, the 'Say Again' feature is truly original and makes the TY96A stand out.

Imagine you are flying on route, and you don't quite hear a transmission. Press the PLAY button on the TY96A, and like magic you get to hear the last transmission immediately. Once you have used this feature you will smile at how handy it is.

As soon as a new transmission is made the TY96A gives this priority, so you won't miss something important. This proves the 'Better by Design' ethos. Trig has shown that they understand how to include practical pilot friendly features, which also include the following:

- **High-resolution bright display** and a superior user interface.
- A built in **two place stereo intercom** and support for stereo music.
- **Dual Watch** feature allows monitoring of two frequencies instantaneously.
- **Push Step** - for faster tuning of 25 kHz / 50 kHz frequencies.
- **Emergency** button - provides instant selection of 121.5 MHz.
- **'Say Again'** - This instantly replays up to 30 seconds of the previously received transmission.

TY96A versus GTR225

When comparing Trig against the market leader, the Garmin GTR225 the following grid highlights some interesting insights.

Feature	GTR225	TY96A
<i>Higher resolution display</i>	32 pixels	Yes - 48 pixels
<i>Faster tuning - push step</i>	No	Yes
<i>Favorite frequencies</i>	15 x	200 x
<i>Say Again</i>	No	Yes
<i>Frequency database</i>	Subscription required	Open / free
<i>Dedicated Emergency button</i>	No (via flip-flop)	Yes
<i>Height of radio</i>	1.65"	1.3"
<i>Dual Watch</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Intercom/stereo</i>	Yes	Yes

The TY96A beats the GTR225 on seven different features. As each radio is comparable on technical criteria, such as power output and certifications then this provides a compelling lead for the TY96A.

MONEY MATTERS

No review would be complete without a look at the cost of each product. The GTR225 is listed at \$ 2,095 ex. tax. This compares to the TY96A radio with a list price of \$ 1,977 ex tax. I started by sharing that more pilots are discovering Trig - the TY96A VHF Radio is a good example of this. Not only is the form factor attractive, but it really does have the superior features and value that makes it stack up.
Find out more at www.trig-avionics.com