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First Elecraft K4 Independent Test Results

by Wayne Burdick, N6KR

Rob Sherwood, NC0B, has posted measurements of the K4D in his receiver performance table:

<http://www.sherweng.com/table.html>

We're quite pleased with his test results, which confirm that the K4/K4D is near the top of its class (direct-sampling SDRs). A K4HD would provide somewhat higher dynamic range for those stations in extreme signal environments, but the vast majority of operators will find that the K4/K4D more than meets their needs.

I'd like to highlight a few important items in Rob's chart.

First, the K4D has a high 2 and 20 kHz dynamic range value of 101 dB. Because it's a direct-sampling radio, this figure will hold at all offsets from strong signals.

Second is the blocking dynamic range number (128 dB), higher than almost every other "pure" SDR measured.

Finally, there's the LO noise (local oscillator; 148 to 155 dB) -- again, very favorable compared to competing SDRs. This is an important number correlated with reciprocal mixing dynamic range (RMDR).

Taken together these demonstrate that the K4D will offer excellent performance in crowded band conditions.

News & Updates

K3/K3S Options and Upgrades - [Place your order now!](#)

Now is the time to place your order for a special production run of K3/K3S options and upgrades. We will be placing material orders with our suppliers in June.

Along with the upgrades, we will do a final run of P3s (both factory assembled and kit) and the K3/0 Mini Remote Control Panel.

Why isn't the KRX3A listed on the order page?

We are confirming lead times and pricing on critical components needed to manufacture the KRX3A. We will notify everyone who is interested in purchasing a KRX3A as soon as we have this information confirmed.

[Order K3/K3S Option & Upgrades Here!](#)

2021 Conventions

Please note that our plans to attend any of the listed on-site conventions may change if the event location shows an increase in Covid-19 cases near the event date.

- **QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo**, Online - Aug 13-15
- **W9 DXCC**, Chicago, IL - Sept 10 - 11
- **Pacificon**, San Ramon, CA - Oct 15 - 17

K4 Update

High-Performance Direct Sampling SDR



K4 Software Release 17 (Beta)

K4 Software is being continuously improved, and can be easily updated right from the front panel. Here are some highlights from the most recent beta release:

MACRO EDITOR -- Allows operator to customize up to 13 switch functions on the K4 itself as well as all 16 functions of the K-Pod remote controller. Supports virtually the full K4 remote-control command set.

RECEIVER PERFORMANCE -- Change have been made to significantly improve dynamic range under extreme signal conditions. (Sherwood's receiver performance table reflects these changes.)

SSB/ESSB BANDWIDTH CONTROLS -- You can now directly set the SSB and ESSB transmit bandwidth.

ADC OVERFLOW INDICATION: The "+" symbol in "+60" on the S-meter turns magenta if the associated receiver's ADC hits overflow level. In previous releases this was happening on some transitions from RX to TX. With this corrected, users can now set MENU:RX Auto Attenuation to ON if desired.

Full release notes can be viewed at the K4 at the time the beta release is downloaded (and prior to installation, if desired).

K4 Shipping Update

We are now shipping Group 1 orders from May 17. It will take two to three weeks to ship the rest of the May 17th orders. Once we get through that day, you will start to see the Group 1 shipping status change much more quickly on our [Shipping Status page](#).

How You will be notified when your K4 is ready to ship

A member of the Elecraft Sales Team will contact you by email when your K4 is ready to ship. They will verify your shipping address and provide you with any additional information regarding your order.

If your email address has changed, please complete the [New email Address Form Here](#).

K4 Documentation

If you're interested in the capabilities of the K4 Transceiver, take a look at two user documents that are not available for download.

- [Introduction to the Elecraft K4](#)
- [K4 Operating Manual](#)

Additional documentation will be released soon, including the K4 owner's Manual and the K4 Programmer's Reference.

Pre-order your K4 [here](#).

Learn more about the K4 on our [YouTube Channel](#).

Listen for us on the air - We'll likely be on a K4!