

# ICOM PS-125 review



By Matt Erickson KK5DR

The ICOM PS-125 DC power supply, a vast improvement over the poorly designed PS-85. I purchased the PS-125 to match my IC-756PRO, but not solely for that purpose. I had used a MFJ 4225MV "mini-switcher" with good results, and no problems. I had a number of smaller supplies that ran all my accessories, but those supplies failed, so I wanted to put the MFJ PS on those, and got the PS-125 to run the PRO only.

## TESTING

I had read other reviews of the PS-125 at various places on the net, the main complaint was that of fan noise. With this in mind I carefully tested the unit when I got it.

I guess my hearing is not as good as that of "other" reviewers. I did not find the fan noise to be as bad as it could be. Perhaps most of the other reviewers have "Super-human" hearing.

Next I put my Tektronix 100Mhz O-scope on the DC output of the PS, looking for any noise imposed on the DC output. I saw a few minor transient spikes, but these were very low voltage, and very little ripple, well below the mV level. Next is an on air test looking for broad-band noise. I listened to all bands from 1.8 to 50 Mhz, looking for changes in ambient noise level with the rig on a dummy load. I found none.

Now, a full load test was done, and no problems were found.

The user should be reminded that the internal fan is thermostatically controlled, and turns on and off, even when the rig is in "stand-by" receive mode. The PRO draws 2.5A on RX, so this presents a minimum load on the PS at all times. At full power output TX the PA draws about 18A. + 2.5A = 20.5A. The PS-125 is rated for 25A full load, and has

over-current and voltage protection. The protection circuit cause shut-down of the PS, and the main switch must be cycled off for several seconds, then the unit can be powered on again, this resets the circuit.

It is "normal" for the fan to run from time to time while the radio is in RX mode, and will run much more when TX is used.

### **Looks**

The PS-125 is a good looking unit. Slim, light weight, & well built. My only problem with the PS is HIGH price for a new unit. For \$150 less, the MFJ 4225MV is a better value. But I was able to find a PS-125 used, in mint condition, and at a large discount. I am pleased with the purchase, but I'd never buy a NEW one.

Overall, I would say that the PS-125 is a good PS, the fan noise is not really excessive, but the new price is.

### **Addendum Dec. 2002**

After nearly a year in operation, the units still runs cool & quiet. Even after several hours of operation the unit is barely warm to the touch. A good PSU in a stylish cabinet.

**Jan. 2003**, Now I have two of these supplies.

**Modification;** For those that can't stand the fan noise, I did a mod to reduce it. 

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