

VGC VR-N7500 on a 2016 Harley Davidson Electra Glide

I mentioned a couple of weeks ago that I bought the VERO N7500 dual band mobile radio and was testing it at my house, first on my power supply as a base station, then I moved it to my Harley in place of my Icom IC-2730. After a week's worth of riding with it, I can honestly say it is perhaps the simplest radio to install on a motorcycle.

The VR-7500 really only needs two connections, power and antenna. You do not have to run a control cable to the front of the bike as there is no "head" to mount up there. This radio uses only your cell phone (or tablet) as the interface between you and the radio. I use an Android phone, a Google Pixel3. The Android phones have the most features for use with this radio. iPhone will work but is much more limited at the moment. Maybe there will come a better app for iOS, but it does work with the existing app at the App Store.



I bought the N7500, as well as the Bluetooth PTT button and the Bluetooth speaker mic. I am using the Sena 20S headset on my helmet. My Icom IC-2730 has the Bluetooth board added to it and works with the Sena20S very well. The connection has been stable and seems to work every time turn them on. However, the audio reports have not always been great. There seems to be a slight amount of distortion or delay with the Icom.



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So, I unplugged the Icom and plugged in the N7500 to the existing power (Anderson PowerPoles and 12 ga. wire directly to the battery). I also connected the antenna, a Comet SBB5 5/8 wave mounted on my luggage rack using one of the MARC antenna mounts and a Diamond SO239 mount with the thin cable leading to the radio. I paired my Sena to the radio to the Sena as the 2nd phone with no problem and paired the PTT button to the radio, also with no problem.

The radio has good audio, plenty of volume to drive the Sena unit, and is clean with no static or ignition noise. My transmit audio is also very good, much clearer than using the Icom IC-2730 from various reports by friends that have heard me before. The reports have been the Sena sounds as good as the wired Mic that comes with the radio. My only problem is to remember to not speak too loudly when riding (a natural tendency).

Now for the really good part. The programming is very easy. Your phone will run an app that has all the information for the radio. Yes, you have to put in the TX and RX frequency, it does not do the offset for you. But you can have several Regions or groups, with 16 channels in each region. And all 16 are displayed on one screen, so you can easily pick the channel you want. They have made the programming of this radio very easy. Power, squelch, mic gain, remote mic gain, and much more are all available for programming. What's more, you can have several cellular devices with the app installed and can use any of them to control this radio. However, only one at a time can control the radio, and you have to turn off the BT to change to the other device.



I did all the programming on my Samsung Galaxy Tab 4 which is about 5 years old and I used the keyboard on the Tab to do the typing. Very easy and very BIG!! Then I saved the programming to the radio. When I later connected my phone to the radio, and went into the programming, it allowed me to load the same programming on the phone that was on my tablet. Although I did have to re-name the Regions, as they came in with just numbers - 1, 2, 3, etc.

If you do not have to have a Sena or Cardo headset, or even a separate mic to use your radio, you can just use your phone. Turn on the audio and use the on-screen PTT. Reports are the audio is very good, as good as the mic.

There is a public Facebook group that I have posted to, and go to almost daily, as new things are being published regularly. Great people that really help. I made a couple of audio clips so you can hear the mic and the Sena quality. VERO VR-N7500 groups. Take a look, you will see videos, PDF's on set up, and how to use the APRS that is built into this radio!! I am still learning that.

This is a great radio is now my standard on my Electra Glide.

Mark Kanzler, KE6ZRP, Ham on a Hog, 2016 Harley Davidson Electra Glide