

## HOW WE TESTED

### Test Speakers Take the Stage

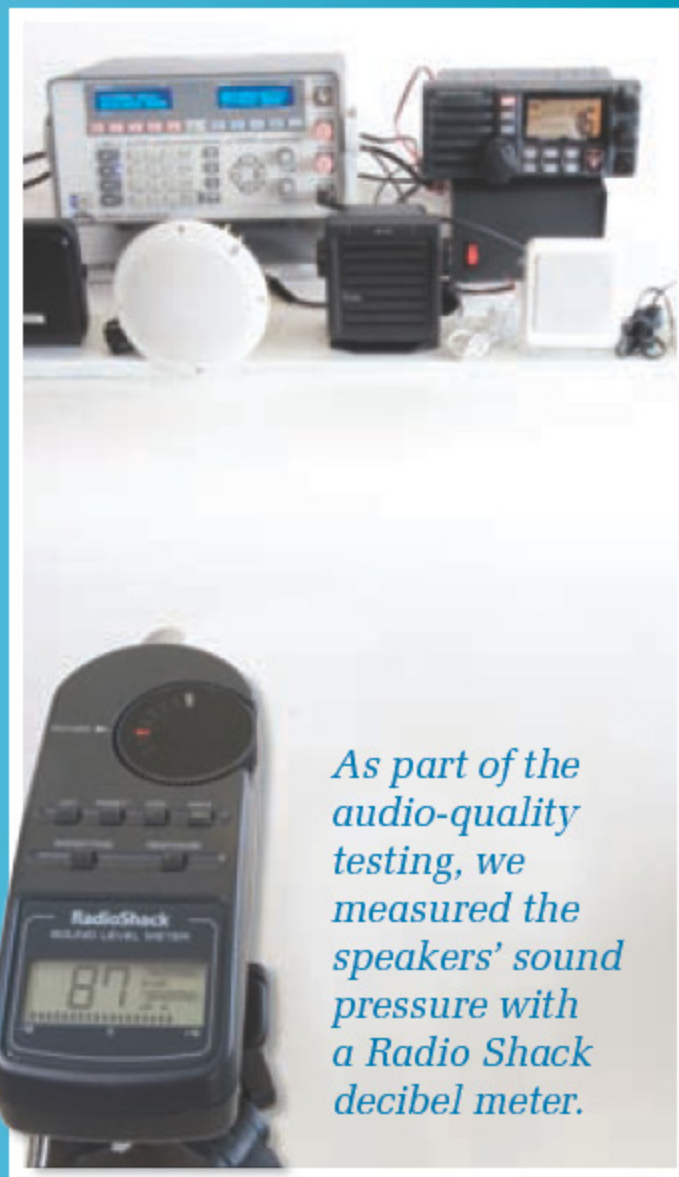
**F**or handling ease, we mounted the speakers, in two groups, to wood boards. Each speaker was connected in turn to a Standard Horizon GX2360S fixed-mount VHF radio. This radio is typical of those currently in service and has a rated audio output of 4.5 watts, below the maximum level of all the speakers tested.

To be sure each speaker worked, and to get a preliminary sound-quality rating, we listened to a weather channel. Next, we connected our Ramsey 3010 Communications Service Monitor to the radio and input a 1,000-kHz tone on channel 16. With our earplugs in place, we cranked up the radio volume to maximum and took sound pressure measure-

ments using a Radio Shack decibel meter set to "dBA." The meter was mounted on a tripod, about 9 feet away from the speakers, level with the speaker being tested, and pointing directly at that speaker.

In a worst case scenario, a VHF extension speaker would be mounted in an area where it would be exposed to wind and rain. To test for durability in this environment, we sprayed each speaker with a water hose at volumes that would simulate a heavy wind-driven rainstorm. After letting the speakers air-dry overnight, we tested them again for sound quality while listening to a weather channel broadcast.

Winners were determined by taking into consideration overall performance, cost, and warranty.



*As part of the audio-quality testing, we measured the speakers' sound pressure with a Radio Shack decibel meter.*