



## Bel vs. Escort vs. Valentine

One of the most hotly debated topics amongst Detector enthusiasts is which detector is the best? The three leading manufacturers or brands are Beltronics, Escort and Valentine.

Points to consider, Escort and Beltronics are now owned and operated by the same company. They both gain from the extensive R&D carried out by the team of Engineers. Mike Valentine co-invented Escort in the 70's before starting his own company Valentine Research. So lets consider the top models of each brand and compare.

The Escort 8500 X50, the Beltronics Pro RX65 and the Valentine One.  
Note: - Bel have produced two model lines the Pro Series and the Vector Series. The Pro RX65 is comparative in features and performance to the Vector 995 (950 modified for Australia and NZ).

- The Escort 8500 and Bel RX65 have similar performance on Ka and K Band.
- The RX65 has voice and led display. Voice allows the driver to keep his or her eyes on the road making for safer driving and clearer identification of the radar threat.
- The Escort 8500 is designed for left hand driving only as the display is slanted to the left making it difficult to use in right hand drive vehicles.
- Escort and Beltronics have a single antenna that is bi-directional. This allows you to receive radar from front and rear, at distances equal to or exceeding that of Valentine.
- The Valentine has the advantage of having dual antennas, allowing its directional arrows to identify the direction that the radar is coming from.
- The Bel RX 65 has a better tech mode (display of technical information such as voltage received at the radar detector). The Bel also shows the exact radar frequency detected, allowing the user to clearly identify if the threat is real.
- Reviewers have agreed, that the filtering on the Valentine 1 is inferior to both the Bel and Escort meaning more false alerts. In the November 2004 issue of Autoweek magazine's review, they called the Valentine 1 the "Chicken Little of radar detectors".
- Escort and Bel have the best filtering on the market today.
- The RX65 also has Ku band. Ku band is used in Asia and Europe and therefore allows the user to use this model when travelling.
- The Bel RX65 has a convenient smart plug allowing the user to more easily mute the detector.

**With the release of the Beltronics Sti (XR modified for Australia and New Zealand) it is clear from its performance and features, this model is now the stand out performer and rightly rated as "the best detector ever built".**

For other reviews please see the following:-

The Ultimate Real-World Radar Detector Review '05 posted on website LaserVeil.com. In this report, the Beltronics RX65 was ranked as the the top performer "Think of the Bel as a *high-performance sports car that can act as daily driver*. Vehicles such as a late model Corvette or Porsche 911 with SMG come to mind."

Check RadarDetector.net, a radar detector users forum.