

The Ten Things You Want To Know About This Radio

This radio is way too complicated. It can do thousands of different things. We only need it to do what we want it to do. It is programmed to do that.

- 1. The knob at the top is the on/off/volume knob.**
- 2. The big black button on the left is the Push To Talk (PTT) button. Don't transmit on ham frequencies until you have a LICENSE!!!!**
- 3. The little lower black button the left, pressed quickly, turns on a light; pressed for 2 seconds, turns the receiver on continuously. Generally, leave it alone.**
- 4. The Orange Button can set off a bothersome audio alarm or let you listen to pleasing FM radio. Use carefully.**
- 5. The Orange VFO/MR button should be LEFT IN MR MODE (where a name shows up on the top, or "A" display.**
- 6. The A/B blue button generally stays on A (little arrow to the left on the display up at the top)**
- 7. The Black BAND button – not really needed.**
- 8. You change preprogrammed channels ONLY by pressing the up or down buttons on the display.**
- 9. Do not press the MENU button until you are an expert. If you accidentally press it, immediately press EXIT so you don't reprogram something**
- 10. That is about all you need to know to be able to use this radio to do absolutely amazing things!!!**

BAOFENG HELPFUL HINTS

Three ways walkie-talkies avoid hearing noise/signals of no interest:

1. SQUELCH: Unless the signal exceeds the squelch threshold, the receiver stays quiet (“quiets”). On this radio, there is little difference between the squelch levels 1-9. I use 1 or 2. You can temporarily override “squelch” by pressing the MONITOR button to try and hear a barely recognizable signal.
2. CTS: Continuous Tone Squelch: Deep Bass signals (usually below hearing frequencies) that may be required to be present, or the receiver stays quiet. If the Repeater demands a Tone, you must transmit it (T-CTS) or they will ignore you. (“TONE” mode). If you want to ignore any repeater that doesn't send the tone you demand (this is rare) you set “TSQL” and now tones are required in both directions. Usually either the other party doesn't require a Tone (“None”) or they require & send one, but you set your transmitter to send and your receiver not to care (“TONE”)
3. DCS: Digital Coded Squelch: Same as tones, but done digitally rather than audio tones. I have not yet needed to use this.

Programmable Options You Probably Want to Understand:

Menu No.	Explanation (The Chinese chosen names frequently make no sense)
0	Squelch, see above, typically just set it to 1
1	STEP: Sets the coarse/fineness of your frequency choices, ranges from 2.5 to 25 kHz. Amateur 2 meter frequencies can usually all be accessed if you set this to 12.5
2	TXP Transmitter power, either low (1 watt) or High (4 watts output, 6 dB stronger signal)
3	SAV: means Battery Save: Receiver turns rapidly on and off until needed; 1:3 is good.
4	VOX: Voice operated. Leave off if you want to use Push To Talk; set the sensitivity 1-10 if you want to have the radio respond to your voice (be careful!)
5	W/N: Narrow or WideBand. Generally Wideband. If you select Narrow, an “N” will display on the display.
6	ABR, which incomprehensibly means do you want the display backlighted at times, yes or no.
7	TDR, which incomprehensibly means do you want the receiver to “dual-watch” both A and B or not. If yes, an “S” will be displayed....why an S??
8	BEEP: Beep every time you select a key (will drive you nuts)
9	TOT: Turn Off Timer: can be set so the transmitter simply won't drone on and on for more than the set number of seconds. Very useful to protect your transmitter if you are functioning as a repeater.

10	R-DCS: set the Digitally Coded Squelch you require to accept an incoming signal; usually turned OFF
11	R-CTS: set the Continuous Tone Squelch signal you require to accept the incoming signal, usually turned OFF.
12	T-DCS: set the Digitally Coded Squelch signal you will send, usually set OFF
13	T-CTS: set the Continuous Tone you will send – repeater may not require at all, or may require a tone such as 88 Hz, or 123 Hz.
14	VOICE: get the radio to talk to you when you select options. Useful.
15	ANI: the transmitter can be automatically numerically identified. Never seen it used.
16	DTMFST Allows you to hear “touch-tone” tones if you send them.
17	S-Code: signal code – another James Bond sort of thing.
18	SC-REV: If in scanning, how scanning will resume: TO = timed; it stops for a bit on every channel that has a signal; CO=carrier; stays on an active channel as long as there is a carrier (signal) present; SE: Search – it stays there even after the signal goes away.
19	PTT-ID: allows your radio to send a code when you hit the PTT button. James Bond.
20	PTT-LT: delay before sending James Bond signals....
21	MDF-A: incomprehensibly means how Display A will display things: either as Name, Channel or Frequencies. I usually set it to Name.
22	MDF-B: Same for Display B. I usually set it to Frequency.
23	BCL: Busy Channel Lockout. Only useful when you want to lock your transmitter from sending when someone else is sending, and you might not know it because you are demanding a certain tone, and they aren't sending it, so you don't hear them.
24	AUTLOK: keyboard locks automatically (usually NO) If the keypad gets locked, press the #/key key for 2 seconds to unlock.
25	SFT-D: Direction of shift when choosing a shifted transmitter frequency: OFF means you don't transmit at all, + for up, and – for down. (See the Band Plans for different bands; set to OFF on channels where you should never transmit, such as the NOAA weather frequencies.
26	OFFSET: In Megahertz, the amount of the shift. Typically 0.6MHz on 2 meters, and 5 MHz on 70 cm.
27	MEMCH: memory channel to store in
28	DELCH: delete a certain channel
29	WT-LED: color of display when waiting
30	RX-LED: color of display when receiving
31	TX-LED: color of display when transmitting
32	Alarm Mode: Site / Tone / Code
33	Band: UHF/VHF (I program on the computer, taken care of)
34	TX-AB: If using dual watch, you can force it to ALWAYS transmit on A display choice or B, so that if you hit the PTT button, you know where it is going to transmit.

35	STE: Tail Tone Elimination; I think it can eliminate the “roger beep” at the end of transmissions?
36	RTE: same thing when through a repeater?
37	RPT-DL: delay the tone when through a repeater?
38	POMSG: Power On Message: ON, yes, please display the message
39	ROGER: can automatically insert a Roger Beep at the end of your transmission (if you really want it)
40	RESET: VFO or ALL;

Things you want to know about your display:

The “channel” is always shown in little numbers at the far right.

Either the Name, Frequency or Channel is shown in Big Numbers in the middle

An arrow shows you whether you are using the A Display (on the top) or the B Display (on the bottom) frequency/channel.

L means you are using low power. Otherwise, you are using High Power

N means you are using narrow band; otherwise, you are using wideband

DCS at the left means your are using tone squelch

S means you are searching both A and B display frequencies/names for signals.

Antenna with bars shows up when you are receiving or transmitting. It always has the same number of bars.

+/- means your transmitt frequency is shifted

R means you have gotten into reverse shift

This software definable radio is quite tricky and you might want to read more about the VFO versus MR (memory channel) operation etc. For our purposes, we will always operate in MR (memory channel) format, and usually simply on the A display, which displays NAMES of repeaters or frequencies we will access.

Try not to reprogram your radio until you really know what you are doing.....