BCH-270 Owner's Manual

By BridgeCom Systems, Inc.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Welcome

Thank you for purchasing the BCH-270 dual-band hand-held Scanning receiver. The goal of the BCH-270 is to provide a cost-effective, feature rich hand held radio for users of the 2m and 70cm bands of the amateur radio spectrum. This Owner's Manual will acquaint you with the features and operation of the BCH-270. Every effort has been made in the preparation of this manual to ensure the accuracy of its contents. Carefully read this manual in order to properly operate the radio before use.

SPECIFICATIONS

General	BCH-270
Number of Channels:	128 x 2
Working Voltage:	7.4 V DC
Weight w/Battery & Ant	~260g
Dimensions (W x H x D):	61 mm x 124 mm x 36 mm
Frequency Stability:	+/- 1.5 ppm
Operating Temperature:	-4° F to +122° F (-20° C to +50° C)
Battery Type:	Li-Ion
Antenna Connector:	SMA Male
Antenna Impedance:	50Ω

In our on-going commitment to quality, specifications are subject to change without notice.

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CHAPTER 2: Unpacking and Preparation

We recommend that you identify the items listed in the following packing list. If you find that all the items are not present, please contact us.

Parts List

Item	Quantity
Rubber Antenna	1
Li-ion Battery Pack	1
Desktop Charger	1
Power Adapter	1
Belt Clip	1
This user's Manual	1
Hand Strap	1

GETTING ACQUAINTED

Antenna

Indicators
Green light at RX

Power/VOL Rotator
Power on by rotating clockwise
Power off by rotating counter clockwise till hear the "Kada" sound. VOL control by rotating

Speaker

PF1
Define desired functions

PF2
Define desired functions

SPK   **Jack**
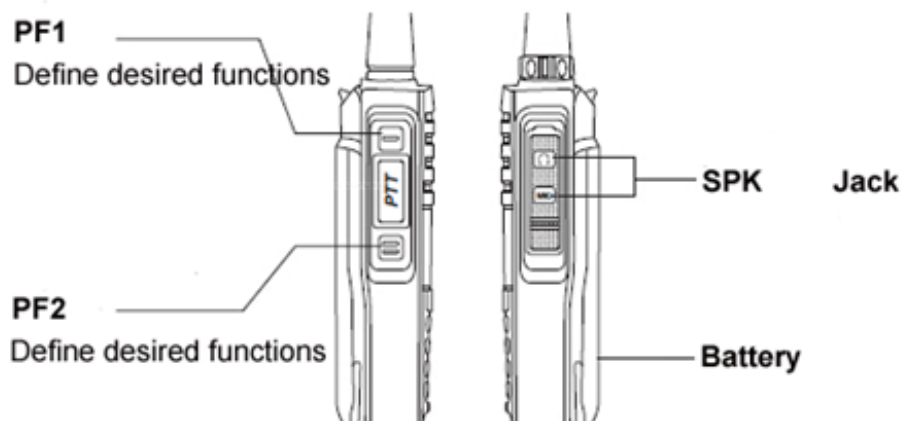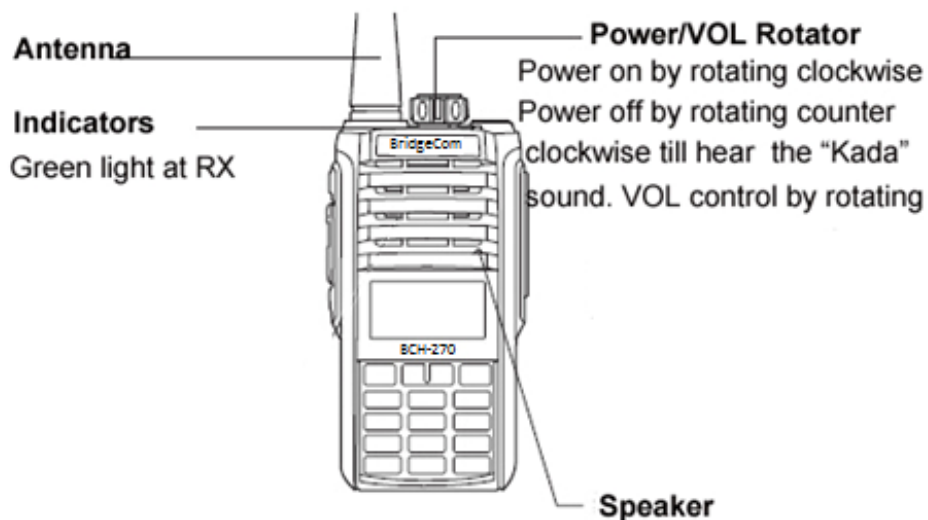
Battery

Charging the Battery

The battery is not completely charged at the factory, therefore the battery will need to be charged before using the radio. After two to three charge / discharge cycles, the operating capacity will increase to its normal capacity. To charge the battery:

1. Fasten the battery pack to the back of the radio. Note: Before charging, it is advised the radio is powered OFF.
2. Using the supplied power adaptor, plug the output terminal of the power adapter in the DC jack behind the charger base. The charger LED will indicate ORANGE for about 2 seconds then go out.
3. Place the radio into the charger cradle. When charging, the LED indicator will light RED. Once the battery is fully charged the charger LED will turn GREEN. It normally takes about 5 hours to completely charge an empty battery.

Battery Charger Indicator

Operation	Indicator
Power Connected	Orange LED on 2 seconds then goes out
No battery	NONE
Charging	RED solid
Fully charged	GREEN solid
Fault Condition (Over temp, short circuit, or over discharge)	Red LED flashes

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LCD Icons
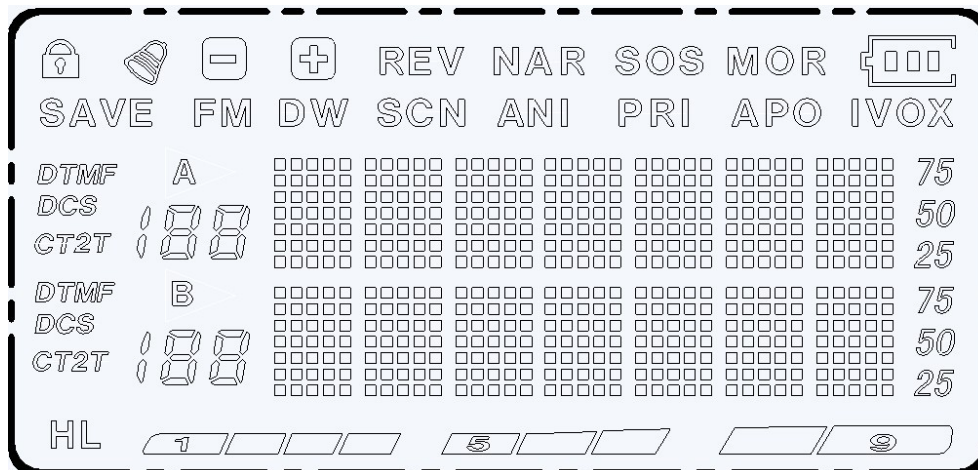
Icon	Description
🔒	Key Lock
ANI	ANI
⊟ ⊞	Minus/Plus Offset Frequency Direction
🔔	Remote Emergency
IVOX	IVOX
VOX	VOX
SAVE	Battery Save
APO	APO(Automatically Power OFF)
🔋	Battery Gauge Indicator
FM	FM Radio
DW	Dual Watch
SOS	SOS
NAR	Narrow Band
MOR	MORSE Code
PRI	Priority Scan
REV	Reverse Frequency
SCN	Scan
A B	Group A/B
DTMF	DTMF
DCS	DCS
CT	CTCSS
75 50 25	Last Digits At Frequency
2T	2 Tone
188	Channel Number
▭▭ ▭▭ ▭▭	RX Signal Indicator

CHAPTER 3: FEATURES AND OPERATION

FEATURE OVERVIEW:

●   Dual watch Frequency operation
●   2 x 128 Memory channels (GROUP A and B)
●   LCD Dot Matrix display
●   CTCSS and DCS encode / decode – Standard and non-standard
●   DTMF Encode/Decode
●   VOX
●   Very long battery life
●   Windows based PC Programmer

Switching Power On/Off and adjusting the audio volume level
1. With a fully charged battery, connect the antenna to the top of the radio's antenna jack.
2. Rotate the POWER/VOL knob clockwise to turn on the radio. A power up alert will be heard and the current DC supply voltage will be indicated. After about 2 seconds, the display will resume normal operation and display the current operating frequency.
3. To increase/decrease the audio volume level, rotate the POWER/VOL knob.
4. To power down the radio, rotate the POWER/VOL knob fully counter clockwise until clicked and the display goes dark.

After powering up, for its first use, the radio defaults to VFO operating mode and the default receive (RX) frequency is displayed for both 2m and 70cm. Once the radio has been used, it will power up to the mode it was in prior to being turned off.

Keypad Overview:

The BCH-270 has a 16 button keypad for operating the radio. From the keypad, you will be able to program the radio for how you want it to operate.

CHAPTER 4: QUICK START – GET ME ON THE AIR!

When the radio is powered on for the first time, it will display the measured battery voltage and emit a power on alert. The powered on alert will be followed by the voice message: "Power On." On the top line of the radio display will be the 2m RX frequency (GROUP A) and the bottom line will display the 70cm RX frequency (GROUP B).

CHAPTER 5: Basic Operation

- **RX**

    1. Upon power up, the radio defaults to a pre-programmed or default RX Frequency.

    2. When radio is receiving a valid call, the speaker un-mutes and the green LED lights.

    3. Certain conditions may be required for the radio to un-mute and receive. For example, proper CTCSS/DCS signal decode might be required in order for the radio to un-mute. In addition, the receiving signal must be strong enough to break the squelch (SQL) setting.

    4. CTCSS/DCS signaling is a special squelch protocol and can help to ignore unwanted calls on the channel. CTCSS/DCS is programmed on a per channel basis. To communicate using CTCSS/DCS, other radios must have the same signaling in their radios.

Working Modes

1）Frequency Mode (VFO) / MEMORY MODE

To toggle between VFO mode and memory mode, press the V/M key. To indicate the radio is in memory mode for the respective band, there will be a channel number to the left of the frequency. Pressing the A/B button switches between each band. While in VFO mode, you can press the V/M key and this will convert to a quasi VFO/MEMORY mode where you can step up/down through the memory channels and the channel frequencies are displayed. In VFO mode, you can then step up/down in frequency by pressing the UP/DOWN keys. The up/down step size is determined by the STEP size programming.

2）Memory Mode

To change to exclusive MEMORY mode where the ALPHA channel names are displayed, hold down the V/M key and cycle radio power. In this mode you can press the UP/DOWN keys to step through the pre-programmed channels. The names of the channels will be displayed. To go back to VFO / MEMORY mode, turn the radio off and then power up the radio holding the V/M key.

3）FM Mode

The BCH-270 supports an FM radio. To change to FM Radio mode press the F key followed by the 8 key. While in this mode, you can press the UP/DOWN keys to change the FM radio frequency.

4）Menu Mode

To enter Menu mode, press the F key. Press the UP/DOWN arrow keys to choose desired item. For more details please refer to "Menu Operations".

Chapter 6: HOW-TO Function GUIDE:

- **Change BANDS from 2m (GROUP A) to 70cm (GROUP B) or 70cm to 2m.**

    1. To change operating bands, simply press the *A/B button.

- **Memory Mode Channel recall / VFO Frequency Entry**

    1. In Memory mode or Memory/VFO mode, you can input three numbers to change channels. If the radio has pre-programmed channel numbers assigned then it's a matter of entering the 3-digit channel number to recall the channel. If the channel does not exist, then the current channel is maintained. The following examples illustrate:

       To recall: CH1 (KEY 0 0 1), CH98 (KEY 0 9 8), CH123 (KEY 1 2 3)

    2. In VFO mode, simply key in the desired RX Frequency. After keying in the 6 digit frequency, if it's a valid RX Frequency, the radio will begin receiving. If the frequency is invalid, the radio will revert back to the previous working frequency.

       To enter 145.450 MHz – Use the *A/B button to select the 2m band. Then KEY IN: 1 4 5 4 5 0 – A long key beep will indicate success.

- **Storing a Channel to Memory**

  Channel frequencies are stored using the radio programmer or by using the radio in VFO mode only. The following instructions are for VFO mode radio operation.

  1. Press the UP/DOWN keys to choose or input the channel number where you want the channel stored. For example key in 0 0 6. The word SAVE will be displayed and flash on the screen.

  2. Press F key to display YES? Press the F key again to confirm. The channel is now stored.

- **Deleting a Channel from Memory**

  Deleting a channel is done in Memory mode.

  1. Press A/B to Select the band where the channel you'd like to delete is located.

  2. Press the F key followed by 2 3 to bring up DEL CH?

  3. Press the F key again to bring focus to the channel name line. Press the UP/DOWN buttons or the key in the channel number you would like to delete.

  4. Once the channel name is displayed, press the F key, YES will be display. Press the F key gain and the channel will be deleted.

- **Setting SQUELCH (SQL)**

  The purpose of the squelch control is to mute the speaker when no signals are present. With the squelch level (0-9) correctly set, the speaker will only un-mute when there is a strong signal

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present. The higher the squelch level, the stronger the signals must be to un-mute the speaker. The appropriate squelch level depends on the ambient RF noise conditions.

1. Press the F key and then press the 1 SQL button. The LCD will display the current SQUELCH level.

2. Press the F key to move the cursor to the squelch line and press the UP/DOWN keys to choose desired SQL level.

3. Press the F key to confirm the setting. Press the A/B button to exit menu mode.

● Changing Frequency Step Size

1. Press F and then KEY 9 STEP. The LCD will display the current step size. Press the F key again to go the step size option line. The step size options are: 2.5K, 5K, 6.25K, 10K, 12.5K, 15K, 20K, 25K, 30K, 50K, and 100K.

2. Press UP/DOWN keys to choose desired step size.

3. Press F to confirm the setting. Then press the *A/B button to store the setting and go back to the previous operating mode.

● Programming Frequency OFFSET and SHIFT for DUPLEX operation

1. Select the band you want to program the offset and shift. Press F and then 2 0 to access the OFFSET Menu item.

2. Press the F key to move the cursor to the second line. Key in the desired offset. For example: 600 kHz would be 0 0 0 6 0 0.

3. Press the *A/B button to store and exit the OFFSET setting.

4. To program the SHIFT, press the F key and then 1 9.

5. Press the F key to move the cursor to the second line. Press the UP / DOWN button to select OFF, +, or -. Press the F key and then the *A/B button to store and exit.

● Programming the SIDE KEYS PF1 and PF2

The side keys can be programmed using the Windows BASED programming software or using MENU ITEMS 39 through 42. See MENU ITEMS Chapter 7.

● Start Channel Scan

1. Press F and then press the numeric KEY 6 SCN. Then press the F key once again to start scanning.

2. Press UP/DOWN key to change scanning direction during scanning.

    When scanning in VFO mode, the radio will scan by stepping through the channels as determined by the programmed frequency step. Scanning in Channel mode will step through all the programmed channels. Scanning in FM Mode, the radio will scan all valid FM Radio frequencies. In Channel mode, scanning will not activate if radio has less than two

channels.

• CTCSS/DCS

1. Press F, then press 5 SQT. The LCD will display SQT.RX on the top line of the display.

2. Press F again to move the pointer to the second line. The SQUELCH type can be selected by pressing the *A/B button. OFF, CTCSS, and DCS

3. Once the squelch type is selected, the UP/DOWN buttons can be used to step to the desired CTCSS tone or DCS code. You may also key in the desired tone.

4. For example: 102.5Hz for CTCSS.
    a. If necessary press the *A/B to switch to CTCSS.
    b. Key in: 1，0，2，5

5. Press the F key to store the setting and switch to selecting the SQUELCH type.

   If at any time there's an entry error, press the # key to cancel the entry and the radio will revert back to displaying the previous CTCSS/DCS tone.   To completely cancel the entry process, press-and-release V/M button. You cannot set the RX signaling when the radio is in MEMORY mode.

   In addition, the BCH-270 can encode/decode any non-standard CTCSS tone and DCS code. Simply key in the desired tone/code.

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CHAPTER 7: MENU Items

The BCH-270 supports 51 menu items for setting various parameters that determine the operation of the radio. This chapter details each of these items and how each item works. KEEP IN MIND, MANY OF THESE FEATURES CAN BE ADJUSTED USING THE WINDOWS BASED PC PROGRAMMER.

To access the menu list:

Press F and then quickly key the menu item number or press the UP/DOWN button to find the menu item. If the menu list has not been accessed since power up, item 00 – ANI is displayed. Once the menu item is found, press the F button to begin setting the item function. Press the UP/DOWN button to select the item function. Press the F button to confirm the item function setting. Press the *V/M button to exit the menu list and revert back to the previous operating mode.

During operation, the current menu item displayed will be the last menu item that was displayed when the menu list was exited.

00 – ANI (Automatic Number Identification)

The ANI menu item allows for turning ON/OFF ANI RX decode operation of the radio. If decoded, the calling radio's unique ID is displayed.

01 – SQL (SQUELCH Level)

The purpose of the squelch control is to mute the speaker when no signals of sufficient strength are present. With the squelch level (0-9) correctly set, the speaker will only un-mute when there is a strong signal present. The higher the squelch level, the stronger the signals must be to un-mute the speaker. The appropriate squelch level depends on the ambient RF noise conditions.

02 – VOX.SWI (VOX SWITCH)

This menu item allows for turning ON/OFF the VOX feature. VOX stands for voice activated VOX.SWI works with the VOX Level menu item 24.

03 – SQT.RX

This menu item allows for changing the radio SQUELCH option for receive. While in this option, pressing the *A/B button switches from OFF, CTCSS, and DCS. Once the desired RX option is chosen, key in the tone/code you want to use. When done and the ARROW icon is pointing to SQT.RX, press the *A/B button to exit. See RX CTCSS/DCS in the HOW-TO section.

04 – SCAN

The Scan menu item allows for turning SCAN ON/OFF. The type of scan and how it operates is set up using the BCH-270 programming software.

Press F and 6 to select SCAN. To turn on SCAN, press the F key and the radio will revert back to the previous operating mode and start scanning. The SCN icon will illuminate. To exit SCAN, press any key on the radio.

Additional scan settings can be adjusted using the programming software function parameter1 tab sheet.

The radio scans through the frequencies in the programmed step size.

The scanning modes used by the BCH-270 are as follows:

Time Mode (TO): The radio stops scanning after detecting a signal for approximately 5 seconds. Prior to the 5 seconds expiration, the radio will remember the channel and continue to scan. When the 5 seconds has expired and the signal is still present, the radio will stop and rest on the scanned channel.

Carrier Mode (CO): The radio stops scanning when a signal is detected and remains on the same frequency until the signal drops out.

Search Mode (SE): The radio stops at the pre-programmed frequency or channel when detecting a signal.

The PC based programmer allows for setting the delay time between RX and Scanning. This timer sets how long the radio remains on a channel prior to resuming scan.

The PC based programmer also allows for setting the Scan Start Beep on/off, Scan Exit Beep ON/OFF, and Scan Light on/off.

Also, the programmer allows for one memory channel in each group (2m or 70cm) to be designated as a SCAN-to MEMORY Priority Channel. This is for use in memory mode.

05 – FM RADIO

This menu item is used to turn ON/OFF the built-in FM Radio.

06 – LED

This menu item allows for you to program how you would like the LCD backlight display to work. You can turn the LCD backlight OFF, or you can set the illumination time for how long it remains lit after there has been any activity with the radio. The time options are: OFF, ON, AUTO OFF in seconds – 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, or 25.

07 – BEEP

This menu item is used to turn ON/OFF all radio beeps.

08 - D. WAIT (DUAL WAIT)

This menu item is an ON/OFF feature that sets how the radio receives. If D.WAIT is ON, the radio will monitor and receive on the displayed 2m (A) and 70cm (B) channels. If D.WAIT is OFF, the radio will only receive on the selected GROUP.

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09 – APO (AUTO POWER OFF)

The APO setting will cause the radio to automatically turn off power if there's no operation during the programmed interval.   The radio can be powered up by simply pressing any key. The programmed time interval is OFF, and 1 to 24 hours.

10 – AUTO LK (LOCK KEYPAD)

This feature programs the KEY LOCK feature. The KEY LOCK feature allows for locking out the key pad. The options are: MANU where the #LOCK key is held until the keypad locks, and AUTO 5, 10, 20, 30 where the keypad automatically locks after 5, 10, 20, or 30 seconds. To indicate locked, the LOCK icon will be displayed in the upper left corner of the display. Once the keypad is locked it remains locked until the #LOCK key is pressed-and-held with UNLOCK displayed. The radio will not remember the key pad is locked upon power cycle.

ATS 5, ATS 10, ATS 20, ATS 30 locks the key pad after 5, 10, 20, 30 and STORES the setting so the radio remembers the KEY LOCK status upon power cycle.

11 – PON.MSG (POWER ON MESSAGE)

This menu item allows for customizing a Power On Message. The options are: NO MSG, DC Voltage, or MSG indicating Custom Message created using the programming software.

12 – W/N (Wide or Narrow Band)

The W/N setting is used for setting the 2m (A) or 70cm (B) sides of the radio to either WIDE or NARROW band operation. Each band has its own setting and the channel group selected is what will be adjusted when this menu item is entered.

13 - SFT-D (Shift Direction)

This menu item is used for setting the 2m (A) or 70cm (B) shift direction. The options are OFF, +, and -.   The amount of shift is determined by the OFFSET. OFFSET is programmed using menu item 20.

14 - DIS.NM (DISPLAY NAME)

When the radio is used in strict MEMORY mode. (POWER ON holding the V/M button), this menu item allows for turning ON/OFF the pre-programmed custom name of the channel.

15 - MEM CH? (Store Channel to Memory)

When in VFO mode, this menu item allows allows for storing the current channel contents into memory. See: Storing a Channel to Memory in the HOW-TO section.

16 - DEL CH? (Delete Channel from Memory)

This menu item allows for deleting a memory channel. See: Deleting a Channel from Memory in the HOW-TO section.

17 – ROGER

This menu item allows for turning on/off the 'ROGER' beep . The volume level of the 'ROGER' beep is determined by the setting of the volume control knob.

18 - SCAN AD (SCAN LIST ADD)

This menu item is for use in MEMORY mode. The SCAN ADD feature allows you to add or delete memory channels from the scan list. This feature does not work in VFO mode.

You must be in MEMORY Mode and on the specific memory channel when using SCAN ADD.

When on the channel you would like to add or delete, press the F key and 2 6. Then press the F key to move to the second line of the display. Press the UP / DOWN button to select DEL or ADD. Press the F key to confirm. Press the *A/B to exit the menu item.

19 - DC VOLT

This menu item allows for you to check the radio's battery voltage.

20 – DW (DUAL WATCH)

This menu item allows for monitoring the receiver of the selected band or bands while listening to the FM Radio. When this feature is active, the DW icon is illuminated on the display.

21 - MDF-A (Display Method Group A)

This menu item allows you to choose how you would like the channel information (Frequency, Name, etc) displayed. The menu options are:

VFO: Displays channel frequency.
CHANNEL: Displays PC programmed channel name and number.
VFO.CH: Displays channel number and channel frequency.

22 - MDF-B (Display Method Group B)

Operation is the same as menu item 29.

23 - CA TONE (Calling Tone)

This menu item allows for the selection of one of five different Calling Tone(s) to be placed.

24 – VOICE PROMPTS (VOICE LANGUAGE SELECTION)

The radio supports voice prompts upon numeric key presses and power up. This menu item allows for turning this feature ON/OFF and having voice prompts in either English or Chinese.

25 - FIR.TMR

This menu item programs the FIRST CHANNEL BACK timer.

26 - FIR.CHA

This menu item is to be used in conjunction with the programmable SIDE KEYS. When either PF1 or PF2 is assigned to FIR CH, this is the place where you designate which

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channel is the FIRST CHANNEL for GROUP A. Accordingly, when the PF1 or PF2 Key is pressed, GROUP A's assignment will become this channel.

27 - FIR.CHB

This menu item is to be used in conjunction with the programmable SIDE KEYS. When either PF1 or PF2 is assigned to FIR CH, this is the place where you designate which channel is the FIRST CHANNEL for GROUP A. Accordingly, when the PF1 or PF2 Key is pressed, GROUP A's assignment will become this channel.

APPENDIX A: CTCSS and DCS Tables

Available standard /non-standard CTCSS Tones

1-67.0	14-103.5	27-159.8	40-199.5
2-69.3	15-107.5	28-162.2	41-203.5
3-71.9	16-110.9	29-165.5	42-206.5
4-74.4	17-114.8	30-167.9	43-210.7
5-77.0	18-118.8	31-171.3	44-218.1
6-79.7	19-123.0	32-173.8	45-225.7
7-82.5	20-127.3	33-177.3	46-229.1
8-85.4	21-131.8	34-179.9	47-233.6
9-88.5	22-136.5	35-183.5	48-241.8
10-91.5	23-141.3	36-186.2	49-250.3
11-94.8	24-146.2	37-189.9	50-254.1
12-97.4	25-151.4	38-192.8	
13-100.0	26-156.7	39-196.6	

Available DCS CODES

023	071	143	225	266	356	452	532	664
025	072	145	226	271	364	454	546	703
026	073	152	243	274	365	455	565	712
031	074	155	244	306	371	462	606	723
032	114	156	246	311	411	464	612	731
036	115	162	245	315	412	465	624	732
043	116	165	251	325	413	466	627	734
047	122	172	252	331	423	503	631	743
051	125	174	255	332	431	506	632	754
053	131	205	261	343	432	516	645	
054	132	212	263	346	445	523	654	
065	134	223	265	351	443	526	662	

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WARRANTY AND SERVICE

Limited Warranty

This product is warranted by BridgeCom Systems, Inc. to be free of defects in materials and workmanship for a period of **one year** from the date of purchase. If a defective part causes this product to operate improperly during the two-year warranty period, we will service it to the original owner free of charge if shipped to BridgeCom Systems at the owner's expense. This warranty does not apply to any parts damaged due to improper use or violation of instructions. It does not extend to damage incurred by misuse or abuse, unauthorized modifications, natural causes such as lightning, fire, floods, and other such catastrophes; nor to damage caused by environmental extremes, such as power surges and/or transients, theft, or accidents.

All warranties must be performed at BridgeCom Systems, Inc. No credit will be given for unauthorized repair work attempted by the customer.

BridgeCom Systems, Inc. will repair or replace the equipment and return to the customer freight pre-paid, within the continental United States. Equipment found not to be defective will be returned at the customer's expense, and it will include the cost to ship, test, and return the equipment.

Equipment returned for repair must have a return merchandise authorization (RMA) number. To obtain an RMA contact our Technical Support Department at (816)-532-8451 or email techsupport@BridgeComSystems.com. All returned equipment must have the RMA number listed on the outside of the shipping container.

Ship all returns to:
    BridgeCom Systems, Inc.
    Attn:Repair
    102 NE State Route 92 Hwy
    Suite C
    Smithville, MO 64089

Out of warranty repairs and service charges are billed at the current hourly rate plus parts.

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Changes or modifications to this device not expressly approved by Bridgecom Systems could voice the user's authorization to operate this device.

FCC Statements

Warning and Compliance Statement:

Any Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance couldvoid the user's authority to operate the equipment.

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference including received interference that may cause undesired operation.

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

—Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
—Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
—Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
—Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

The FCC requires the user to be notified that any changes or modifications made to this device that are not expressly approved by Company Name may void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

WARNING: Modification of this device to receive cellular radiotelephone service signals is prohibited under FCC rules and Federal Law.

Any modification to a scanning receiver to receive transmissions from the Cellular Radiotelephone Service frequency bands voids the certification of the scanning receiver, regardless of the date of manufacture of the original unit. In addition, the provisions of §15.23 shall not be interpreted as permitting modification of a scanning receiver to receiver Cellular Radiotelephone Service transmissions.

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