



Lots of desk microphones contain amplifiers to boost the audio, so you may need to make adjustments. This model has a slider control to do just that.

channels in the same area use the same CTCSS tone. The next nearest repeater using the same radio frequency will use a different CTCSS tone to prevent a user accidentally accessing two repeaters at the same time. These tones are filtered out before being sent to headphones or the loudspeaker.

To use a repeater, a number of things have to be done.

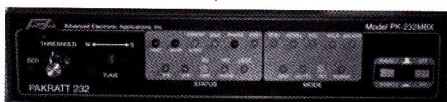
1. Tune to the correct channel, the output frequency of the desired repeater.
2. Select the repeater offset so that the transmitted frequency is 600kHz lower.
3. Turn on the tone burst and/or CTCSS facility, whichever the local repeater uses.
4. Push the PTT and call. It is customary, when making a CQ call through the repeater to say something like "M3ABC listening through", rather than the normal CQ call.

On some transmitters the selection of the repeater offset is shown by a minus sign in the display. The frequency readout may also change to the actual transmit frequency when transmitting.

The UHF repeaters use a +1.6MHz offset, not that you need remember that for the exam!

Desk microphones & packet TNC's

MOST MOBILE transceivers come supplied with a fist microphone. For home use



If you connect a TNC (Terminal Node Controller) between your radio and computer you will be able to send and receive text messages over the air.

a desk microphone may be preferred, leaving your hands free to operate the radio and write the log.

The output signal level may not be the same as from the supplied fist microphone. It may be necessary to make an adjustment to the output level control of the desk microphone, or, less desirable, to the transmitter input. Less desirable, because it will need adjusting again when the fist microphone is used again.

Similarly, packet Terminal Node Controllers (TNCs) often have very high outputs that need reducing considerably before feeding in to the transmitter.

A TNC is much the same as the modem used to connect a computer to the Internet, however now it is connecting the computer to the radio which will be tuned to an amateur 'packet' frequency. This is a bit like an amateur only Internet that uses text only. It does not use pictures, because of the large size (K-bytes) of them and the long time required to send them.

Sending excessively high audio levels into the microphone socket will cause distortion, unreadable signals and importantly, overmodulation which will interfere with other radio users. **It must be avoided.** Suitable arrangements must also be made to ensure the PTT is correctly wired and will successfully turn the transmitter 'on' and 'off'. It is not unknown for the transmitted RF to interfere with the TNC and result in the transmitter becoming jammed on, so be careful when setting-up.

The Phonetic Alphabet

The phonetic alphabet is used when communication is difficult, perhaps because the signal is weak or when conditions are noisy. The correct alphabet to use is shown below and in note (b) to the licence. Please use it! It is not compulsory but non-English speaking people will not recognise "A for apple" and have never heard of a place called Zanzibar. They will understand "Alpha" or "Zulu" because that is what they would have been taught

Phonetic Alphabet			
A	Alpha	N	November
B	Bravo	O	Oscar
C	Charlie	P	Papa
D	Delta	Q	Quebec
E	Echo	R	Romeo
F	Foxtrot	S	Sierra
G	Golf	T	Tango
H	Hotel	U	Uniform
I	India	V	Victor
J	Juliet	W	Whisky
K	Kilo	X	X-ray
L	Lima	Y	Yankee
M	Mike	Z	Zulu

Jargon

The use of jargon is **not** recommended in amateur radio. You should not use terms from other radio services and it is advised not to over-use amateur radio terms either. Some terms, such as Q-Codes are intended for use on Morse where abbreviations do assist communication and they can be sometimes useful when talking to non-UK stations. Listen to other contacts by experienced amateurs and visit the local club especially if they have on-air meetings. Their advice will greatly help your operating etiquette.

Etiquette

It is important to remember that anyone may be listening including short wave listeners considering becoming amateurs. Abuse and bad language are not part of amateur radio and on-air transmissions should always be polite and respectful. It is also worth remembering that radio has no boundaries and your remarks may be heard in other countries with different cultures and beliefs. Indeed it is in being able to talk with such people that gives amateur radio the richness it enjoys.

Sadly there are those who do seem to find entertainment in disrupting other people's conversations, playing music and being generally abusive. This kind of behaviour has no place in amateur radio. If you do overhear such material or feel it is directed at you, the important thing to remember is that you must not react or respond to it. That is often what the abuser wants you to do so they can send even more abuse. Talking to an unlicensed station is a breach of your own licence and could get you a bad name or reported to the authorities as well. Simply find another channel or frequency. If it is on a calling frequency or a repeater wait a while and see if the problem has ceased. The abuser should not even know he has been heard.

Advice on many aspects of operating and ethics can be found on the RSGB web site at www.rsgb.org/operating. It is worth reading!

Persistent abuse can be reported to the RSGB's Amateur Radio Observation Service (AROS) but any formal action requires good evidence, dates, times, locations and recordings and will also have to take its turn in being followed up. Obviously you must not put yourself in an awkward position but AROS operates in a strictly confidential manner with RSGB headquarters at Bedford as the only contact point.