

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Memorandum

TO: Radio Users

FROM: Brandon Diemer, National Wireless Technology Unit

Subject: Racal Radio Button Configuration and FAQ.

The following is the BLM standard button configuration for Racal's:

Toggle Switch Position A	Scan ON
Toggle Switch Position B	Priority Scan
Toggle Switch Position C	Scan OFF
Function Key F1	Zone Change
Function Key F2	Monitor
Function Key F3	Hi/Low Power

The recommended squelch setting should be **(02 II)**, if it is any higher you degrade the reception, if it is any lower the squelch will probably break open frequently. You may have to adjust this up to **(03 III or 04 IIII)** in some cases because squelch may still open up on some channels.

The scan delay should be set at **2 sec.**, Scan reply to **3 sec.**, and Monitor timer to **4 sec.**.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How to disable/enable the keypad?

Press and hold the <square> key on the keypad top row, then press and hold the <enter> key on the top row until "keypad disabled" or "keypad enabled" is displayed.

2. What is the battery life?

When using the battery pack the life is very short around 4-5 hrs. If you use a rechargeable you can get around 10-11 hrs, and with the new hybrid you can get between 16-25 hrs. If at all possible keep a recharger and rechargeable battery in your vehicle.

3. Does my Battery Charger need to be programmed?

Yes, you need to update the charger if it has not been done. This helps with elimination of false charge readings and compatibility with older batteries. It also resets corrupted data that may be in the battery packs.

4. Does using Dim backlight save on battery life?

No, you should use bright if you are going to be using backlight. There is really no difference in current draw if you use Dim instead of Bright.

5. What is cloned from one radio to another?

Channels, Zones, Banks, and Channel Parameters like (squellch level and power)

6. What is not cloned from one radio to another?

Encryption keys, passwords, toggle switch definitions, auxiliary function definitions, emergency switch definitions, and other global parameters.

Latest Information

1. The latest firmware version to date is 5.8.
2. The latest version of PC Programmer is 3.1
3. The latest Charger upgrade version is 2.0.1
4. Hybrid battery will be available for purchase in mid June
5. Fire Software is expected out in August
6. GPS Upgrade expected out in November
7. The side jack on all radios should be replaced to prevent the hand microphones from being pulled off. This will also enable the new cloning and programming cable to be attached.

8. There are two types of antennas in the 136-174 MHz frequency range, one is shorter than the other and has a 1-2db loss associated with its use. Use of the longer antenna is recommended for better coverage.
9. If you have an older radio and your antenna jack is flush with the top of the radio it will need to be upgraded at the factory to use the better gain antennas. If the antenna jack is raised approximately 1/8 of an inch, it already has the upgrade.
10. The rechargeable batteries need to be charged every 1-3 months or they will not fully charge when you go to use them. This also includes the Hybrids when they become available.