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> [Kenwood TH-D74A Triband Handheld Transceiver User Manual](#)

## Kenwood TH-D74A

# Kenwood TH-D74A Triband Handheld Transceiver User Manual

MODEL: TH-D74A | BRAND: KENWOOD

## 1. Introduction

The Kenwood TH-D74A is a high-performance handheld amateur radio transceiver designed for advanced communication. It supports 144/220/430 MHz triband operation, offering both analog and digital capabilities including APRS and D-STAR. This device is built for intuitive operation and features rugged IP54/55 weatherproofing, making it suitable for various environments. Key features include a built-in GPS, wide-band multi-mode reception, IF filters, DSP equalizer, a transfective TFT color display, microSD memory slot, and Bluetooth/USB connectivity.



Figure 1: Front view of the Kenwood TH-D74A Handheld Transceiver, displaying its color screen and keypad.

## 2. Setup

## 2.1. Battery Installation and Charging

The TH-D74A uses a rechargeable battery. To install, align the battery pack with the compartment on the rear of the transceiver and slide it into place until it clicks securely. To charge, connect the provided charger to the transceiver. The device supports USB charging for convenience. Ensure the battery is fully charged before initial use for optimal performance.

## 2.2. Antenna Attachment

Attach the supplied antenna by screwing it clockwise onto the antenna connector located at the top of the transceiver until it is finger-tight. Do not overtighten. The antenna is removable and can be replaced with compatible aftermarket antennas if desired.

## 2.3. Power On/Off

To power on the transceiver, rotate the main dial (located at the top) clockwise. To power off, rotate the dial counter-clockwise until it clicks. This dial also controls the volume when the unit is powered on.

# 3. Operating

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## 3.1. Basic Controls

- **Main Dial:** Controls power on/off and audio volume.
- **A/B Mode:** Use the dedicated A/B button to switch between the two main operating bands (VFO A and VFO B).
- **Up/Down Arrows:** Navigate through channels or adjust frequencies in VFO mode.
- **Keypad:** Used for direct frequency entry, menu navigation, and accessing various functions.

## 3.2. Push-to-Talk (PTT)

The PTT button is located on the side of the transceiver. Press and hold this button to transmit, and release it to receive. Ensure you have a valid license for transmitting on amateur radio frequencies.

## 3.3. Flashlight and SOS Function

The TH-D74A includes a built-in flashlight. A dedicated button on the side activates the flashlight. Holding this button down may activate an SOS signal, providing a visual distress beacon.

## 3.4. FM Radio Reception

The transceiver can receive FM broadcast radio. Refer to the operating manual for specific instructions on how to switch to FM radio mode and tune to desired stations.

## 3.5. D-STAR and APRS Operation

The TH-D74A supports D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) for digital voice and data communication, and APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) for real-time tactical digital communications. Detailed setup and operation for these modes are covered in the full operating manual. The built-in GPS enhances APRS functionality.

## 3.6. Programming

The transceiver can be programmed manually via the keypad or through computer software. Using programming software (such as Chirp) allows for easier management of channels, frequencies, and other settings. A data cable (sold separately) is typically required to connect the transceiver to a computer for programming.

# 4. Maintenance

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## 4.1. Battery Care

To prolong battery life, avoid fully discharging the battery frequently. Store the battery in a cool, dry place when not in use. If storing for extended periods, charge the battery to approximately 50% capacity. Use only Kenwood-approved chargers and batteries.

## 4.2. Cleaning

Clean the transceiver's exterior with a soft, damp cloth. Do not use harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners. Ensure all port covers are securely closed to maintain weatherproofing.

## 4.3. Weatherproofing

The TH-D74A is rated IP54/55 for dust and water resistance. While it offers protection against splashes and dust, it is not designed for submersion. Always ensure the battery cover and accessory port covers are properly sealed to maintain its weather-resistant properties.

## 5. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your TH-D74A, refer to the following general troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:** Check battery charge level and ensure it is properly installed. Verify the power/volume dial is turned on.
- **No Audio:** Adjust the volume dial. Check if an external earpiece or microphone is connected and functioning correctly.
- **Cannot Transmit/Receive:** Ensure the antenna is securely attached. Verify you are on the correct frequency/channel. Check for any active squelch settings that might be blocking reception.
- **Display Issues:** If the display is dim or unreadable, check backlight settings.

For more detailed troubleshooting or persistent issues, consult the comprehensive operating manual or contact Kenwood customer support.

## 6. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Number	TH-D74A
Product Dimensions	2.2 x 1.33 x 4.72 inches
Item Weight	7.2 ounces
Frequency Range	144-148 MHz (VHF), 220-225 MHz (VHF), 430-450 MHz (UHF)
Number of Channels	200
Special Features	Weatherproof (IP54/55), Built-in GPS, APRS, D-STAR, Wide-band Multi-mode Reception, IF Filters, DSP Equalizer, Transflective TFT Color Display, microSD Memory Slot, Bluetooth, USB Connectivity

Feature	Detail
Water Resistance Level	Waterproof (IP54/55)
Color	Black
Included Components	Transflective TFT color display, microSD memory slot, Bluetooth and USB connectivity (Note: Specific accessories like battery, charger, antenna may vary by package)
Manufacturer	Kenwood
Date First Available	September 29, 2016

## 7. Warranty and Support

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For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official Kenwood website or contact your authorized Kenwood dealer. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.