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Garmin 010-02097-00

Garmin VHF 215 Marine Radio User Manual

Model: 010-02097-00

1. Introduction

Welcome to the user manual for your new Garmin VHF 215 Marine Radio. This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective operation, installation, and maintenance of your device. The Garmin VHF 215 is a robust and reliable marine communication system designed for clear and dependable communication on the water.

2. Safety Information

Please read all safety warnings and other information in this manual carefully before operating the device. Failure to follow these guidelines could result in property damage, serious injury, or even death.

- **Water Exposure:** This device is waterproof, but ensure all caps and covers are properly sealed before exposure to water.
- **Power Source:** Connect the device only to a 12-volt DC power source as specified.
- **Antenna Installation:** Ensure the antenna is installed correctly and securely to prevent damage or interference.
- **Proposition 65 Warning:** This product can expose you to chemicals including lead, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

3. Package Contents

Verify that all items listed below are included in your package:

- Garmin VHF 215 Marine Radio Unit
- Hand Microphone
- Mounting Bracket and Hardware
- Power Cable
- Documentation (this manual)



Figure 3.1: Garmin VHF 215 Marine Radio with included hand microphone.

4. Installation

Proper installation is crucial for optimal performance and safety. It is recommended to have this device installed by a qualified marine electronics technician.

4.1 Mounting Location

Choose a mounting location that is:

- Protected from direct sunlight and excessive heat.
- Accessible for operation and maintenance.
- Away from strong magnetic fields.
- Secure enough to support the radio's weight during vessel movement.

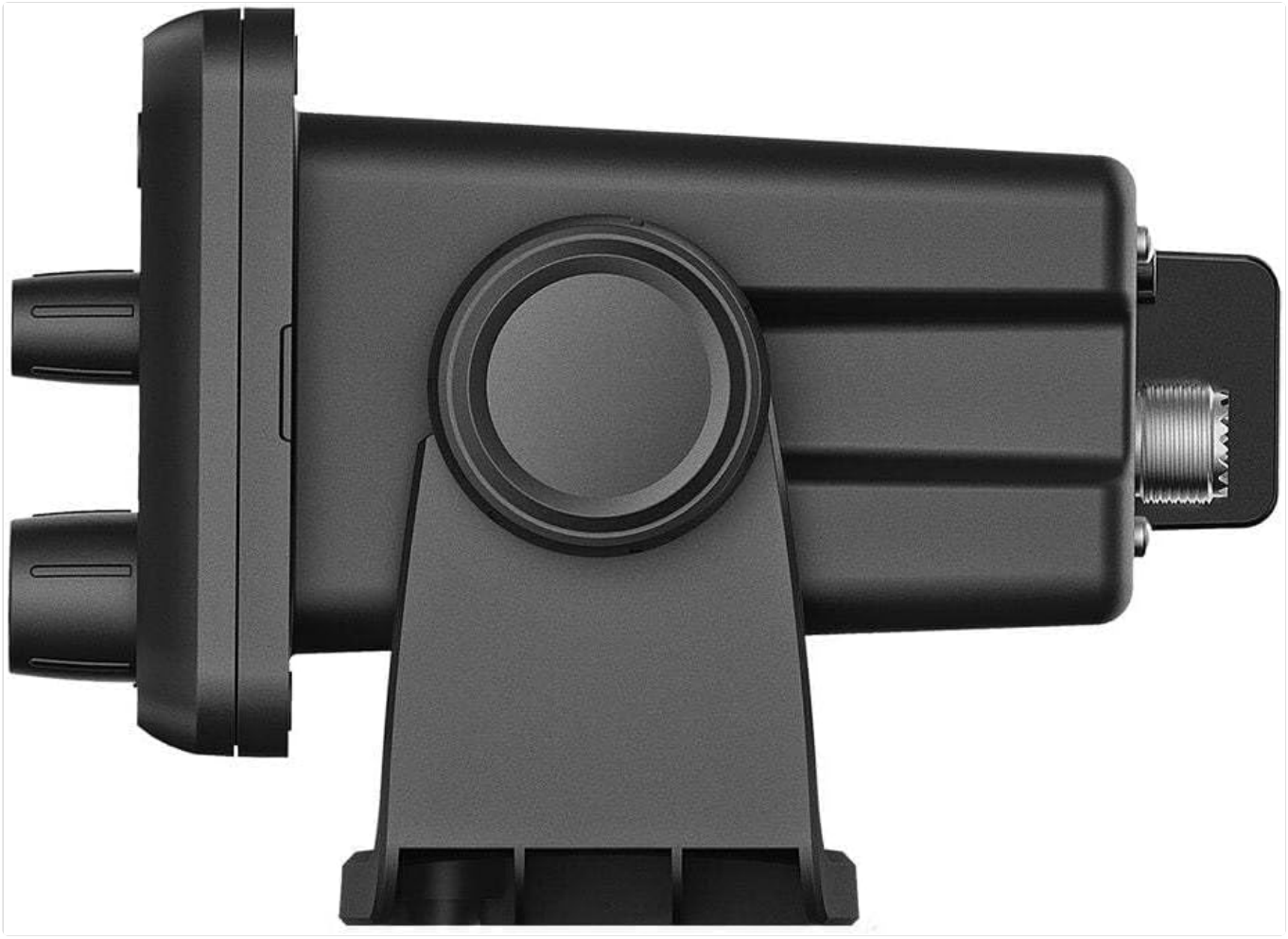

Figure 4.1: Side view of the Garmin VHF 215 unit, showing mounting points.

4.2 Power Connection

Connect the red wire from the power cable to the positive (+) terminal of your 12V DC power source, and the black wire to the negative (-) terminal. Ensure an inline fuse is installed on the positive line as per marine electrical standards.

4.3 Antenna Connection

Connect a suitable VHF marine antenna to the antenna connector on the back of the radio. Use high-quality marine-grade coaxial cable and connectors to minimize signal loss.



Figure 4.2: Angled view of the Garmin VHF 215, showing the microphone connection point.

5. Initial Setup

After successful installation, follow these steps for initial setup:

1. **Power On:** Press and hold the **PWR** button to turn on the radio.
2. **MMSI Entry:** If prompted, enter your Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number. This is crucial for DSC (Digital Selective Calling) functions. Refer to your local marine authority for MMSI registration.
3. **Channel Selection:** Use the **VOL/SQ** knob or channel up/down buttons to select a desired channel.
4. **Volume Adjustment:** Adjust the volume using the **VOL/SQ** knob.

6. Operating Instructions

6.1 Basic Communication

- **Transmit:** Press and hold the Push-To-Talk (PTT) button on the microphone to transmit. Release to listen.
- **Channel 16:** Quickly access Channel 16 (distress and hailing) by pressing the dedicated **16/9** button. Press again to toggle to Channel 9.
- **High/Low Power:** Toggle between high (25W) and low (1W) transmit power using the **HI/LO** button. Use low power for short-range communication to conserve battery and reduce interference.

6.2 Digital Selective Calling (DSC)

The VHF 215 supports DSC for automated distress alerts and routine calls. Your MMSI must be programmed for DSC to function.

- **Distress Call:** Lift the red **DISTRESS** cover and press the button for 5 seconds to send an automated distress alert.
- **Individual Call:** Use the menu to initiate an individual call to another vessel's MMSI.

6.3 Weather Channels

Access NOAA weather channels for up-to-date weather forecasts and alerts. Use the menu or dedicated weather button

(if available) to cycle through weather channels.

7. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and reliable operation of your Garmin VHF 215.

- **Cleaning:** Clean the unit with a damp cloth and mild detergent. Avoid harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
- **Connections:** Periodically check all cable connections for corrosion or looseness. Apply marine-grade dielectric grease to connections to prevent corrosion.
- **Antenna:** Inspect the antenna for damage and ensure it is securely mounted.

8. Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No power	Loose power connection, blown fuse, dead battery	Check power cable connections, replace fuse, check vessel battery.
Poor reception/transmission	Antenna issue, coaxial cable damage, interference	Check antenna connection and condition, inspect coaxial cable, move away from sources of electrical interference.
No audio	Volume too low, squelch too high, faulty microphone	Increase volume, decrease squelch, test with another microphone if available.
DSC not working	MMSI not programmed, GPS not connected/receiving signal	Program MMSI, ensure GPS is connected and has a fix.

9. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Name	010-02097-00
Brand	Garmin
Dimensions (LxWxH)	10.2 x 9 x 6.3 inches
Weight	5 Pounds (2.27 kg)
Color	Black
Material	Plastic
Number of Channels	10
Frequency Range	156.050 MHz to 163.275 MHz (including WX channels)
Talking Range Maximum	36 Mile
Tuner Technology	VHF
Voltage	12 Volts (DC)
Water Resistance Level	Waterproof

10. Warranty and Support

The Garmin VHF 215 Marine Radio comes with a manufacturer's warranty. For detailed warranty information, including terms, conditions, and registration, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Garmin website.

For technical support, troubleshooting assistance beyond this manual, or service inquiries, please contact Garmin Customer Support through their official website or designated support channels. Keep your product's model number and serial number readily available when contacting support.

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