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PNI PNI-HP-6500

PNI 6500 CB Radio User Manual

Model: PNI-HP-6500

1. Introduction

The PNI 6500 CB Radio is a compact and reliable communication device designed for mobile use. This manual provides essential information for the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of your CB radio, ensuring optimal performance and longevity. Please read this manual thoroughly before using the product.

2. Safety Information

- **Power Supply:** Connect the radio only to a 12V DC power source. Ensure correct polarity to prevent damage.
- **Antenna:** Always connect a properly tuned CB antenna before transmitting. Operating without an antenna or with a poorly tuned antenna can damage the radio's final amplifier.
- **Installation:** Install the radio securely in a location that does not obstruct your view or interfere with vehicle controls.
- **Volume:** Adjust the volume to a safe level to avoid distraction while driving.
- **Moisture:** Keep the radio away from water and excessive moisture.
- **Servicing:** Do not attempt to open or repair the radio yourself. Refer all servicing to qualified personnel.

3. What's in the Box

Upon opening the package, verify that all the following items are included:

- CB Radio
- Microphone
- Radio station mounting bracket and screws
- Microphone holder and screws
- Power cord
- Cigarette lighter plug
- User manual
- 1DIN mounting housing



Image: All components of the PNI 6500 CB Radio, including the radio unit, microphone, power cable with cigarette lighter plug, mounting bracket, and screws.



Image: The PNI 6500 CB Radio shown with its retail packaging and the included cigarette lighter plug, highlighting the complete product set.

4. Product Overview

The PNI 6500 CB Radio is designed for ease of use and reliable communication. It features a compact design, a clear blue multicolor screen, and essential functions for CB operation.



Image: The PNI 6500 CB Radio unit connected to its microphone, showcasing its compact size and design.

4.1 Front Panel Controls



Image: A close-up view of the PNI 6500 CB Radio's front panel, displaying the LCD screen, channel up/down buttons, A/F, SQ, RFG, and EMG buttons, and the rotary knob.

- **LCD Display:** Shows current channel, modulation (AM/FM), signal strength, and other indicators.
- **A/F Button:** Toggles between AM and FM modulation.
- **SQ Button:** Activates and adjusts the Squelch level.
- **RFG Button:** Activates and adjusts the RF Gain level.
- **EMG Button:** Selects emergency channels.

- **Up/Down Buttons (on radio and microphone):** Used for channel selection and menu navigation.
- **Rotary Knob:** Typically controls power ON/OFF and volume.

4.2 Rear Panel Connections



Image: The rear panel of the PNI 6500 CB Radio, showing the antenna connector (SO-239 type) and the 12V DC power input.

- **Antenna Connector:** Standard SO-239 connector for CB antenna.
- **Power Input:** 12V DC power connection.
- **External Speaker Jack:** For connecting an optional external speaker.

5. Setup and Installation

5.1 Mounting the Radio

The PNI 6500 is designed for flexible installation in vehicles. Use the provided mounting bracket and screws to secure the radio.

- Choose a location that is easily accessible, does not obstruct driving, and allows for proper ventilation.

- Attach the mounting bracket to the desired surface using the self-tapping screws.
- Slide the radio into the bracket and secure it with the provided thumb screws on the sides.



Image: The PNI 6500 CB Radio neatly installed within the center console of a vehicle, demonstrating its compact fit.

5.2 Power Connection

Connect the power cord to the 12V DC power input on the rear of the radio. The included cigarette lighter plug can be used for convenient power access.

- Ensure the vehicle's ignition is off before connecting power.
- Plug the cigarette lighter adapter into your vehicle's 12V socket.
- For direct wiring, connect the red wire to the positive (+) terminal of the vehicle's battery or a switched 12V source, and the black wire to the negative (-) terminal or chassis ground. Ensure an appropriate fuse is used.

5.3 Antenna Connection

A properly installed and tuned CB antenna is crucial for optimal performance and to prevent damage to the radio.

- Connect your CB antenna cable to the SO-239 connector on the rear of the radio.
- Ensure the antenna is securely mounted and has a low SWR (Standing Wave Ratio). An SWR meter is recommended for tuning.

5.4 Microphone Connection

Plug the microphone cable into the RJ45 jack on the front panel of the radio. Secure the microphone holder in a convenient location using the provided screws.



Image: A hand holding the PNI 6500 CB Radio microphone inside a vehicle, demonstrating its ergonomic design for in-car use.

6. Operating Instructions

6.1 Powering On/Off and Volume

- Turn the rotary knob clockwise to power on the radio. The display will illuminate.
- Continue turning the rotary knob clockwise to increase the volume. Turn counter-clockwise to decrease volume or power

off.

6.2 Channel Selection

- Use the **UP** and **DOWN** buttons on the radio's front panel or on the microphone to change channels.
- The current channel number will be displayed on the LCD screen.

6.3 Modulation (AM/FM)

- Press the **A/F** button to switch between AM (Amplitude Modulation) and FM (Frequency Modulation).
- **Important:** Before switching to AM modulation, ensure the radio's standard is set according to your country's regulations (e.g., EU, dE, UK, I). The default standard is EC, which does not support AM modulation. Refer to the full user manual for instructions on changing the standard.

6.4 Squelch (SQ) and Automatic Squelch (ASQ)

Squelch eliminates background noise when no signal is being received.

- Press the **SQ** button to activate manual squelch. Use the UP/DOWN buttons to adjust the squelch level.
- The PNI 6500 features Digital Automatic Squelch (ASQ) on 9 levels. This automatically mutes the receiver when no signal is present, providing clearer communication. Consult the full user manual for ASQ activation and adjustment.

6.5 RF Gain (RFG)

RF Gain controls the sensitivity of the receiver, allowing you to reduce strong signals and minimize interference.

- Press the **RFG** button to activate RF Gain. Use the UP/DOWN buttons to adjust the RF Gain level (9 levels available).

6.6 Emergency Channel (EMG)

- Press the **EMG** button to quickly switch to a pre-programmed emergency channel. Press again to return to the previous channel.

6.7 Keypad Lock

- The radio features a keypad lock function to prevent accidental changes to settings. Refer to the full user manual for instructions on how to activate and deactivate the keypad lock.

7. Maintenance

7.1 Cleaning

- Wipe the radio's exterior with a soft, damp cloth. Do not use abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- Ensure no moisture enters the unit.

7.2 Antenna Care

- Regularly inspect your antenna and its connections for wear or damage.
- Ensure the antenna is securely mounted and free from obstructions.

7.3 General Handling

- Avoid dropping the radio or subjecting it to severe impacts.
- Do not expose the radio to extreme temperatures or direct sunlight for prolonged periods.

8. Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Radio does not power on.	No power connection; Blown fuse; Faulty power cord.	Check power connections; Replace fuse; Test power cord.
No reception or transmission.	Antenna not connected; High SWR; Squelch set too high; Incorrect channel/modulation.	Connect antenna; Check SWR and tune antenna; Adjust squelch; Verify channel and AM/FM setting.
Poor or muffled audio quality.	Low volume; Faulty microphone; Internal speaker issue; RF Gain too low.	Increase volume; Test with another microphone if possible; Check RF Gain setting; If internal speaker is faulty, an external speaker may be required.
Excessive background noise.	Squelch set too low; Electrical interference.	Increase squelch level; Check vehicle's electrical system for noise sources; Adjust RF Gain.
Cannot switch to AM modulation.	Incorrect country standard selected.	Change the radio's standard (e.g., from EC to EU) according to your country's regulations. Refer to the full user manual for detailed steps.

If problems persist after attempting these solutions, please contact customer support.

9. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Number	PNI-HP-6500
Brand	PNI
Item Weight	1.72 pounds (0.78 Kilograms)
Product Dimensions	4.33 x 4.33 x 0.98 inches
Number of Channels	40
Frequency Range	26,965 - 27,405 MHz
Voltage	12 Volts
Special Feature	Automatic Squelch
Talking Range Maximum	30 Kilometer
Water Resistance Level	Water Resistant
Batteries Required	1 12V battery (for operation, not included with radio)
Color	Blue

10. Warranty and Support

10.1 Warranty Information

The PNI 6500 CB Radio comes with a **24-month warranty** from the date of purchase. This warranty covers manufacturing defects and malfunctions under normal use. It does not cover damage caused by misuse, accidents, unauthorized

modifications, or improper installation.

10.2 Customer Support

For technical assistance, warranty claims, or further inquiries, please contact your retailer or the manufacturer directly. You may also refer to the official PNI website for additional resources and support.
A digital version of the user manual is available for download:Download User Manual (PDF)

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