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BAOFENG UV-18L

BAOFENG UV-18L 4 Band Ham Radio User Manual

1. Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the operation and maintenance of your BAOFENG UV-18L 4 Band Ham Radio. The UV-18L is a versatile two-way radio featuring 4-band reception, 999 programmable channels, and convenient USB-C charging. Please read this manual thoroughly to ensure proper use and to maximize the performance of your device.

2. Product Features

- **Display:** 1.77-inch LCD screen for clear information display.
- **Channels:** 999 programmable memory channels.
- **Frequency Bands:** Supports FM, VHF (144-148MHz), Amateur, and UHF (420-450MHz).
- **Scanning Functions:** Includes three scan modes (time, carrier, search), VFO scan range setting, channel scan, and CTCSS/DCS scan.
- **Special Functions:** Dual watch, Voice Operated Transmit (VOX), alarm mode, CTCSS/DCS sub-tones, DTMF signaling, and NOAA weather alarm.
- **Power Output:** 5 Watts for extended communication range.
- **Battery:** High-capacity 1800mAh Lithium-Ion battery.
- **Charging:** Convenient USB-C direct charging capability, in addition to a traditional charger base.
- **Durability:** Waterproof design for use in various environments.

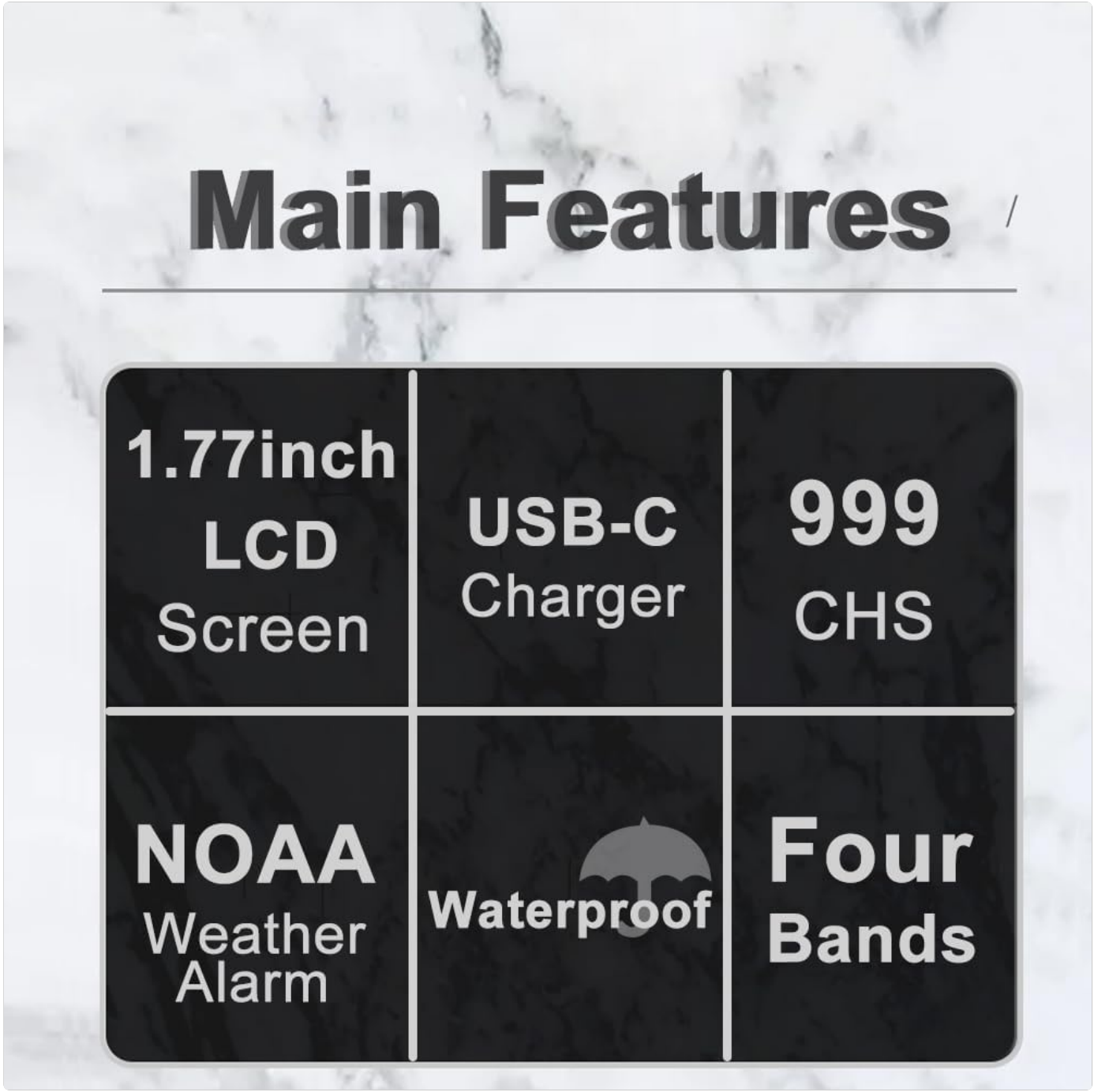


Image: Overview of the BAOFENG UV-18L's main features, including 1.77-inch LCD, USB-C Charger, 999 Channels, NOAA Weather Alarm, Waterproof, and Four Bands.



Image: Illustration highlighting the four-band capabilities of the BAOFENG UV-18L, including FM, VHF (144-148MHz), and UHF (420-450MHz) for amateur use.

3. Package Contents

Upon unpacking, please verify that all items listed below are present:

- BAOFENG UV-18L Portable Radio
- USB-C Cable
- High Gain Antenna
- 1800mAh Lithium-Ion Battery
- Belt Clip
- Battery Charger (Dock and US Adapter)

- Hand Strap
- User Manual (this document)



Image: A visual representation of the BAOFENG UV-18L radio alongside its included accessories, such as the battery, charger, antenna,

belt clip, and USB-C cable.

4. Setup

4.1 Battery Installation

1. Align the battery pack with the grooves on the back of the radio.
2. Slide the battery upwards until it clicks securely into place.
3. To remove, press the battery release latch (usually at the bottom of the battery) and slide the battery downwards.

4.2 Antenna Attachment

1. Screw the antenna clockwise into the connector on the top of the radio until it is finger-tight. Do not overtighten.

4.3 Initial Charging

Before first use, fully charge the battery. The UV-18L offers two charging methods:

- **USB-C Direct Charging:** Connect the provided USB-C cable to the USB-C port on the side of the radio and to a compatible USB power source (e.g., power bank, PC, car adapter).
- **Charger Base:** Place the radio (with battery installed) into the charger dock. Ensure the charging contacts align. Connect the AC adapter to the charger dock and a power outlet. The charging indicator light will typically show red during charging and green when fully charged.



Image: The BAOFENG UV-18L radio demonstrating its USB-C charging capability, showing connections to a car charger, laptop, and power bank for convenient charging.

5. Operating Instructions

5.1 Power On/Off and Volume Control

Rotate the power/volume knob (located on the top of the radio) clockwise to power on the radio and increase volume. Rotate counter-clockwise to decrease volume and power off.

5.2 Mode Selection (VFO/Memory)

The UV-18L operates in two main modes: Frequency Mode (VFO) and Channel Mode (Memory).

- **Frequency Mode (VFO):** Allows direct entry of frequencies and manual tuning.

- **Channel Mode (Memory):** Accesses pre-programmed channels.

Press the **MENU** button, then navigate to the appropriate setting to switch between modes. Consult the on-screen menu for specific options.

5.3 Channel Selection and Frequency Entry

- **In Channel Mode:** Use the UP/DOWN arrow keys or the keypad to select a channel.
- **In Frequency Mode:** Use the keypad to directly enter the desired frequency.

5.4 Transmitting and Receiving

- **Receiving:** The radio will automatically receive signals on the selected frequency/channel.
- **Transmitting:** Press and hold the Push-To-Talk (PTT) button on the side of the radio to transmit. Speak clearly into the microphone. Release the PTT button to return to receive mode.

5.5 Scanning Functions

The UV-18L supports various scanning methods:

- **Channel Scan:** Scans through programmed memory channels.
- **VFO Scan:** Scans through a defined frequency range.
- **CTCSS/DCS Scan:** Detects sub-tones on a received signal.

Access scanning options via the radio's menu system. The three scan recovery methods (Time, Carrier, Search) determine how the radio behaves when a signal is detected during a scan.

5.6 NOAA Weather Alert

The radio can receive NOAA weather alerts. Refer to the menu for enabling and configuring NOAA weather channels and alerts.

5.7 Keypad Lock

To prevent accidental key presses, activate the keypad lock function through the menu or a dedicated shortcut key (refer to the radio's on-screen prompts).

5.8 VOX Function

Voice Operated Transmit (VOX) allows transmission without pressing the PTT button. The radio will transmit when it detects your voice. Adjust VOX sensitivity in the menu.

5.9 DTMF

Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF) signaling is used for various control functions. The UV-18L supports DTMF. Refer to advanced programming guides for specific DTMF applications.



Image: Visual representation of the BAOFENG UV-18L's frequency hopping function for anti-interference and anti-crosstalk, alongside its DTMF capabilities.



Image: Close-up view of the BAOFENG UV-18L's 1.77-inch full LCD screen, displaying frequency information.

6. Maintenance

6.1 Battery Care

- Avoid overcharging or completely draining the battery to prolong its lifespan.
- Store the battery in a cool, dry place when not in use for extended periods.
- If the battery will not be used for a long time, charge it to approximately 50% before storage.

6.2 Cleaning

- Clean the radio's exterior with a soft, damp cloth. Do not use harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
- Ensure the USB-C port cover is securely closed to maintain waterproofing.

6.3 Storage

- Store the radio in a dry, dust-free environment, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- Remove the battery if storing for very long periods.

7. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your BAOFENG UV-18L, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Radio does not power on	Low or dead battery; improperly installed battery	Charge the battery; ensure battery is correctly installed.
Cannot transmit	Incorrect frequency/channel; low power setting; PTT button not pressed correctly	Verify frequency/channel; check power output setting; ensure PTT is fully pressed.
Poor audio quality / No reception	Antenna loose or damaged; low volume; out of range; squelch level too high	Check antenna connection; adjust volume; move closer to other radios; adjust squelch level.
Keypad unresponsive	Keypad lock is active	Deactivate keypad lock (refer to section 5.7).

8. Specifications

- **Power:** 5 Watts
- **Channels:** 999
- **Battery Capacity:** 1800mAh
- **Residual Modulation:** 40dB
- **Frequency Bands:** FM; VHF: 144-148MHz; Amateur; UHF: 420-450MHz
- **NOAA Channel No.:** 10
- **Net Weight:** 585g / 20.63 ounces
- **Stray Component:** ≤7.5uW
- **Modulation Distortion:** ≤5%
- **Working Temperature:** -20℃ to +60℃
- **Audio Distortion:** ≤10%
- **Voltage:** 7.4 Volts (DC)
- **Water Resistance Level:** Waterproof
- **Talking Range Maximum:** 3 Mile (under optimal conditions)

9. Warranty and Support

9.1 Warranty Information

This product is covered by a **1-year warranty** provided exclusively through "Shiqun Electronics Co., Ltd". Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

9.2 Customer Support

For technical assistance, troubleshooting beyond this manual, or warranty inquiries, please contact the seller, Shiqun Electronics Co., Ltd., through the platform where the purchase was made. Provide your product model (UV-18L) and purchase details for efficient support.

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