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BAOFENG UV-18L

BAOFENG UV-18L Multi-Band Two-Way Radio Instruction Manual

Model: UV-18L

1. Introduction

This instruction manual provides detailed guidance for the proper use and maintenance of your BAOFENG UV-18L Multi-Band Two-Way Radio. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the device to ensure safe and efficient communication. The UV-18L is a versatile communication tool featuring multiple frequency bands, a large channel capacity, and convenient USB-C charging.

2. Package Contents

Upon unpacking, please verify that all items listed below are present and in good condition:

- 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)
- Speaker Microphone
- Programming Cable



Image: The BAOFENG UV-18L radio displayed with all its standard accessories, including the antenna, battery, charger, USB-C cable, belt clip, hand strap, speaker microphone, and programming cable.

3. Product Overview

3.1 Key Features

- **Display:** 1.77-inch LCD screen for clear information display.
- **Channel Capacity:** 999 programmable channels.

- **Frequency Bands:** Four-band operation including FM, VHF (144-148MHz), Amateur, and UHF (420-450MHz).
- **Charging:** Convenient USB-C direct charging and traditional charger base.
- **Power Output:** 5 Watts.
- **Scanning Modes:** Three scan modes (Time, Carrier, Search) and VFO scan range setting.
- **Advanced Functions:** Dual Watch, VOX (Voice Operated Exchange), Alarm Mode, CTCSS/DCS scan, NOAA Weather Alarm, DTMF (Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency).
- **Durability:** Waterproof design.

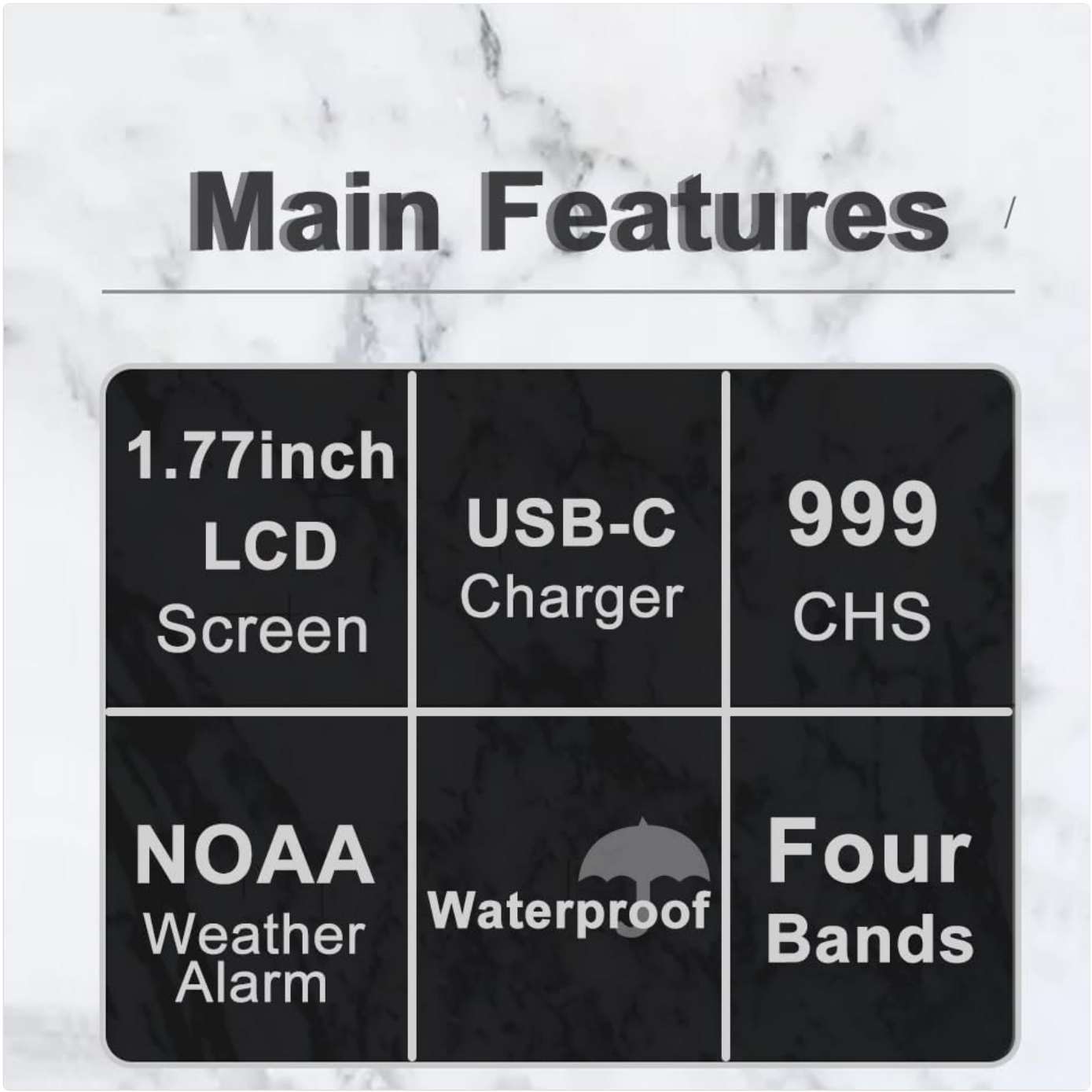


Image: A graphic summarizing the main features of the BAOFENG UV-18L, including 1.77-inch LCD screen, USB-C charger, 999 channels, NOAA Weather Alarm, Waterproof, and Four Bands.

3.2 Radio Components

Familiarize yourself with the main components of your UV-18L radio:



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

- **Antenna:** For transmitting and receiving signals.
- **Power/Volume Knob:** Controls power on/off and adjusts volume.
- **LCD Display:** Shows frequency, channel, battery status, and other indicators.
- **Keypad:** Numeric and function keys for input and control.
- **PTT (Push-To-Talk) Button:** Activates transmission.
- **Speaker/Microphone Jack:** For connecting external audio accessories.
- **USB-C Port:** For direct charging.

4. Setup

4.1 Battery Installation

1. Ensure the radio is powered off.

2. Align the battery pack with the grooves on the back of the radio.
3. Slide the battery pack upwards until it clicks into place.
4. To remove, press the battery release latch 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.
2. Do not overtighten.

4.3 Belt Clip and Hand Strap

- Attach the belt clip to the back of the radio using the provided screws.
- Thread the hand strap through the loop on the top side of the radio for secure carrying.

4.4 Speaker Microphone and Programming Cable Connection

- Open the rubber cover on the side of the radio.
- Insert the plugs of the speaker microphone or programming cable into the corresponding jacks.
- Ensure a firm connection.

5. Charging the Battery

The BAOFENG UV-18L offers two charging methods:

5.1 USB-C Direct Charging

- Connect the provided USB-C cable to the USB-C port on the side of the radio.
- Plug the other end of the USB-C cable into a compatible USB power source (e.g., power bank, PC, car charger, laptop, or USB wall adapter).
- The charging indicator on the radio will illuminate, typically red during charging and green when fully charged.

5.2 Charger Base Charging

- Connect the AC adapter to the charger base and plug it into a power outlet.
- Place the radio (with battery installed) or just the battery pack into the charger base.
- The charging indicator on the base will show the charging status.



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

Note: Fully charge the battery before first use to ensure optimal performance and battery longevity.

6. Operating Instructions

6.1 Power On/Off and Volume Adjustment

- To power on, rotate the Power/Volume knob clockwise until you hear a click.
- Continue rotating to adjust the volume.
- To power off, rotate the knob counter-clockwise until it clicks.

6.2 Frequency and Channel Selection

The UV-18L supports both frequency mode (VFO) and channel mode (MR).



Image: The BAOFENG UV-18L display showing active frequencies in both VHF (144-148MHz) and UHF (420-450MHz) bands, indicating its four-band capability.

- Use the **VFO/MR** button to switch between frequency and channel modes.
- In VFO mode, directly input frequencies using the keypad.
- In MR mode, use the Up/Down arrow keys or the keypad to select from the 999 stored channels.

6.3 Transmitting and Receiving

- To transmit, press and hold the PTT button on the side of the radio. Speak clearly into the microphone.
- Release the PTT button to receive.
- Ensure the antenna is properly attached before transmitting.

6.4 Dual Watch Function

The Dual Watch feature allows the radio to monitor two different frequencies or channels simultaneously. If a signal is detected on one, the radio will temporarily switch to that frequency.

- Activate Dual Watch through the radio's menu settings. Refer to the on-screen menu for specific steps.

6.5 VOX (Voice Operated Exchange)

VOX enables hands-free transmission by detecting your voice. Adjust the VOX sensitivity level in the menu.

- Access the VOX setting in the radio's menu.
- Select a sensitivity level appropriate for your environment.

6.6 DTMF (Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency)

DTMF tones can be used for various functions, such as remote control of repeaters or selective calling.



Image: An illustrative image of the BAOFENG UV-18L demonstrating Frequency Hopping Function for anti-interference and anti-crosstalk, alongside DTMF capability.

- DTMF codes can be programmed and sent via the keypad or menu.

7. Scanning Functions

The UV-18L features advanced scanning capabilities:

- **Channel Scan:** Scans through programmed channels.
- **VFO Scan:** Scans within a defined frequency range.
- **CTCSS/DCS Scan:** Detects sub-audible tones/codes.
- **Scan Recovery Methods:** Time, Carrier, and Search modes determine how the radio behaves when a signal is found during scanning.

To initiate scanning, navigate to the scan menu option and select your desired scan type. Use the radio's programming software for advanced scan list management.

8. NOAA Weather Alert

The BAOFENG UV-18L includes a NOAA Weather Alarm function to keep you informed of severe weather conditions.

- Activate the NOAA Weather Alarm feature through the radio's menu.
- The radio will monitor designated NOAA weather channels and alert you to warnings or advisories.

9. Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, damp cloth to clean the radio's exterior. Do not use harsh chemicals or solvents.
- **Battery Care:** Store batteries in a cool, dry place. Avoid overcharging or fully discharging for extended periods.
- **Storage:** When not in use for long periods, remove the battery and store the radio in a dry, dust-free environment.
- **Waterproof:** While waterproof, avoid submerging the radio unnecessarily and ensure all port covers are securely closed.

10. Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Radio does not power on.	Low or depleted battery; improperly installed battery.	Charge the battery; ensure battery is correctly installed.
Cannot transmit or receive.	Antenna not connected; incorrect frequency/channel; out of range.	Attach antenna securely; verify frequency/channel settings; move closer to other radios.
Poor audio quality.	Low signal strength; volume too low/high; external mic issue.	Adjust squelch level; check antenna; adjust volume; ensure external mic is connected properly.
Battery not charging.	Charger/cable faulty; radio/battery not seated correctly in dock.	Check charger/cable for damage; ensure proper connection in dock or USB-C port.

11. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Number	UV-18L

Feature	Detail
Power Output	5 Watts
Channel Capacity	999 Channels
Battery Capacity	1800mAh Lithium Ion
Frequency Range	FM, VHF: 144-148MHz, UHF: 420-450MHz (Amateur)
NOAA Channels	10
Display	1.77-inch LCD
Charging	USB-C Direct Charging, Charger Base
Water Resistance Level	Waterproof
Operating Temperature	-20°C to +60°C (-4°F to +140°F)
Item Weight	24.86 Ounces (approx. 705g)

12. Warranty and Support

12.1 Warranty Information

The BAOFENG UV-18L radio comes with a 1-year warranty provided exclusively through "Shiqun Electronics Co., Ltd". Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

12.2 Customer Support

For technical assistance, troubleshooting beyond this manual, or warranty inquiries, please contact the seller or authorized service center. Refer to your purchase documentation for specific contact details.

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Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

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Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

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