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> [PNI Escort HP 5500 CB Radio User Manual](#)

PNI PNI-HP5500

PNI Escort HP 5500 CB Radio User Manual

Multistandard, 4W, AM-FM, 12V/24V, ASQ, RF Gain

1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing the PNI Escort HP 5500 CB Radio. This compact and versatile CB radio is designed for reliable communication, featuring multistandard operation, 4W power output, AM-FM modulation, and compatibility with both 12V and 24V power systems. It includes advanced features like Automatic Squelch (ASQ) and RF Gain for enhanced audio clarity and reception control. This manual provides essential information for the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of your device.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

- Read all instructions carefully before operating the device.
- Do not expose the radio to rain, moisture, or extreme temperatures.
- Ensure proper voltage supply (12V or 24V DC) to prevent damage.
- Connect the antenna correctly before transmitting to avoid damage to the transceiver.
- Do not attempt to open or repair the unit yourself. Refer all servicing to qualified personnel.
- Keep the radio away from strong magnetic fields.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all items are present in the package:

- PNI Escort HP 5500 CB Radio
- Microphone with coiled cord
- Power cord with cigarette lighter plug
- Microphone holder and screws
- Radio mounting bracket and screws
- User Manual



Image 3.1: PNI Escort HP 5500 CB Radio with its microphone, power cable, mounting bracket, and microphone holder.

4. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

4.1 Front Panel



Image 4.1: Front view of the PNI Escort HP 5500 CB Radio, showing the display, control buttons, and microphone connection.

- **Display:** Shows the current channel number and other indicators.
- **EMG Button:** Activates emergency channels (9/19).

- **RX/TX Indicator:** Illuminates green for reception (RX) and red for transmission (TX).
- **A/F Button:** Toggles between AM and FM modulation.
- **RFG Button:** Activates and adjusts RF Gain.
- **UP/DOWN Buttons:** Used for channel selection and menu navigation.
- **SQ Knob:** Manual Squelch control.
- **MIC Connector:** Port for connecting the microphone.

4.2 Rear Panel



Image 4.2: Rear view of the PNI Escort HP 5500 CB Radio, showing the antenna connector and power input.

- **ANT Connector:** SO-239 type connector for CB antenna.
- **Power Input:** For connecting the 12V/24V DC power cord.
- **EXT SP:** External speaker jack.

4.3 Microphone



Image 4.3: Close-up view of the PNI Escort HP 5500 microphone, highlighting the PTT, UP, DOWN, and ASQ buttons.

- **PTT (Push-To-Talk) Button:** Press to transmit, release to receive.
- **UP/DOWN Buttons:** For channel selection.
- **ASQ Button:** Activates and adjusts the Automatic Squelch.

5. SETUP

5.1 Mounting the Radio

Use the provided mounting bracket and screws to secure the radio in a suitable location within your vehicle. Ensure the location allows for easy access to controls and good ventilation.

5.2 Antenna Connection

Connect a compatible CB antenna (51 Ohms impedance) to the ANT connector on the rear panel of the radio. Ensure the connection is secure. It is crucial to connect the antenna before powering on the radio to prevent damage.

5.3 Power Connection

Connect the power cord to the power input on the rear of the radio. Plug the cigarette lighter adapter into your vehicle's 12V or 24V DC power socket. The radio automatically detects the voltage.

6. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

6.1 Power On/Off and Volume

Turn the radio on by rotating the volume knob clockwise. Adjust the volume to a comfortable listening level.

6.2 Channel Selection

Use the UP and DOWN buttons on the front panel or on the microphone to select the desired channel.

6.3 Modulation (AM/FM)

Press the **A/F** button on the front panel to switch between AM (Amplitude Modulation) and FM (Frequency Modulation) modes. The selected mode will be indicated on the display.

6.4 Squelch (SQ and ASQ)

The PNI Escort HP 5500 offers two squelch methods to eliminate background noise:

- **Manual Squelch (SQ):** Rotate the **SQ** knob clockwise until the background noise disappears. Rotate counter-clockwise to hear weaker signals.
- **Automatic Squelch (ASQ):** Press the **ASQ** button on the microphone to activate the 5-level automatic squelch. This feature automatically filters and eliminates noise for clearer communication.

6.5 RF Gain

The 7-level RF Gain function allows you to control the receiver's sensitivity, reducing distortion from strong signals. Press the **RFG** button to activate and adjust the RF Gain level using the UP/DOWN buttons.

6.6 Changing Frequency Band

The PNI Escort HP 5500 supports major European bands (EU, CE, UK, PL, dE, in, i0, I2). To change the frequency band:

1. Turn off the radio.
2. Simultaneously press and hold the **PTT** button and the **UP** button on the microphone while restarting the radio.
3. The LED corresponding to the **A/F** button will illuminate, and the current standard will appear on the display.
4. Use the **UP-DOWN** buttons to select the desired band.
5. Restart the radio or press the **PTT** button to exit the band setting mode.

PNI Escort HP 5500

Multi-standard CB Transceiver



4W AM/FM 26.965-27.405 MHz
Manual and Automatic Squelch
7-level RF Gain, 5-level ASQ
12V / 24V DC Supply Voltage

Large
Easy to Read
LED
Display



Frequency bands:
EU, CE, UK, PL, dE, I0, I2, IN



Image 6.1: The PNI Escort HP 5500 supports multiple European frequency bands.

6.7 Emergency Channels

Press the **EMG** button to quickly access emergency channels (Channel 9 for general emergencies, Channel 19 for highway information).

7. MAINTENANCE

- Clean the radio's exterior with a soft, dry cloth. Do not use abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- Ensure all connections (antenna, power, microphone) are secure and free from corrosion.
- Avoid exposing the radio to direct sunlight or extreme heat for prolonged periods.
- Regularly check the antenna for damage and ensure it is properly tuned for optimal performance.

8. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No power	Loose power connection, blown fuse, vehicle power issue.	Check power cord connection. Inspect the fuse in the cigarette lighter plug. Verify vehicle's power socket functionality.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No reception or poor reception	Antenna not connected, damaged antenna, high squelch setting, incorrect frequency band.	Ensure antenna is securely connected. Check antenna for damage. Lower SQ/ASQ level. Verify correct frequency band setting.
Cannot transmit	Microphone not connected, faulty microphone, antenna issue.	Check microphone connection. Ensure PTT button is fully pressed. Verify antenna connection.
Distorted audio	High RF Gain, strong interference, microphone issue.	Adjust RF Gain level. Move away from sources of interference. Check microphone for damage.

9. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Brand	PNI
Model Number	PNI-HP5500
Color	Black
Special Features	Noise suppression, adjustable receiver sensitivity, emergency channels, Automatic Squelch (ASQ)
Resistance	51 Ohms
Compatible Devices	All PNI brand CB antennas
Number of Channels	40
Frequency Range	26.965 to 27.405 MHz
Maximum Range	20 Kilometers (dependent on terrain and antenna)
Voltage	12V / 24V DC
Water Resistance Level	Not waterproof
Product Dimensions (D x W x H)	115mm x 35mm x 115mm
Country of Origin	China

10. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The PNI Escort HP 5500 CB Radio comes with a 2-year manufacturer's warranty. For technical support, warranty claims, or service inquiries, please refer to the contact information provided with your purchase documentation or visit the official PNI website.

Spare parts availability information is not available at this time. Software updates are not guaranteed.

