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BAOFENG BF-T17

BAOFENG BF-T17 FRS Two-Way Radio User Manual

Model: BF-T17

Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the safe and effective operation of your BAOFENG BF-T17 FRS Two-Way Radios. Please read this manual thoroughly before using the device to ensure proper functionality and to prevent damage. Keep this manual for future reference.



Image: Two BAOFENG BF-T17 walkie-talkies, one black and one yellow, shown with their respective USB-C charging cables. This image illustrates the product's appearance and included charging accessories.

Package Contents

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

- 2 x BAOFENG BF-T17 Walkie Talkie with original antenna
- 2 x 1500mAh Type-C Rechargeable Li-ion battery
- 2 x Belt Clip
- 2 x Hand Strap
- 1 x 2-in-1 USB-C Charging Cable
- 1 x User Manual (this document)



Image: A complete view of the BAOFENG BF-T17 package contents, including two walkie-talkies (one black, one yellow), two rechargeable batteries, two belt clips, two hand straps, and a dual USB-C charging cable. This image confirms the items you should find in the box.

Product Overview

The BAOFENG BF-T17 is a compact and lightweight FRS two-way radio designed for reliable communication. It features 22 FRS channels, CTCSS/DCS codes for privacy, VOX for hands-free operation, and a built-in flashlight.



Image: A detailed diagram of the BAOFENG BF-T17 walkie-talkie, highlighting its various components with numbered labels for easy identification. This visual aid helps users locate and understand each part of the device.

1. **Antenna:** For transmitting and receiving radio signals.
2. **Flashlight:** Provides illumination.
3. **Power/Volume Knob:** Turns the radio on/off and adjusts speaker volume.
4. **LED Indicator:** Red for Transmit (TX), Green for Receive (RX).
5. **PTT Key (Push-to-Talk):** Press and hold to transmit, release to receive.
6. **Down Key:** Used for channel selection and menu navigation.
7. **Built-in Microphone:** For voice input during transmission.
8. **LED Digital Display:** Shows channel number, battery status, and other indicators.
9. **External Speaker Jack:** For connecting external audio accessories.
10. **Up Key:** Used for channel selection and menu navigation.
11. **Lamp/FM Key:** Activates the flashlight or FM radio function.
12. **Speaker:** For audio output.

Setup

1. Battery Installation and Charging

The BF-T17 uses a 1500mAh rechargeable Li-ion battery. Ensure the battery is fully charged before first use.

- To install the battery, align it with the compartment on the back of the radio and push until it clicks into place.
- To charge, connect the supplied 2-in-1 USB-C charging cable to the Type-C port on the radio and to a USB power source (e.g., power bank, PC, car charger, wall adapter).
- The LED indicator will show charging status. A full charge typically takes 2-3 hours.
- A fully charged battery provides approximately 18 hours of working time and 36 hours of standby time.



Image: A BAOFENG BF-T17 walkie-talkie connected to a USB-C charging cable, illustrating the charging process. The image also displays key battery information: 1500mAh capacity, 18 hours working time, 36 hours standby time, and 2-3 hours charging time.

2. Attaching the Belt Clip and Hand Strap

- Secure the belt clip to the designated slot on the back of the radio using the provided screws.
- Attach the hand strap to the loop on the top side of the radio for added security.

Operating Instructions

1. Power On/Off and Volume Adjustment

- To power on the radio, rotate the **Power/Volume Knob** (3) clockwise until you hear a click.
- To power off, rotate the knob counter-clockwise until it clicks.
- Adjust the volume by continuing to rotate the **Power/Volume Knob** (3) after powering on.

2. Channel Selection

- The BF-T17 has 22 FRS channels.
- Use the **Up Key** (10) and **Down Key** (6) to select your desired channel. The selected channel number will be displayed on the **LED Digital Display** (8).
- Ensure all radios you wish to communicate with are set to the same channel.

3. Transmitting and Receiving

- To transmit, press and hold the **PTT Key** (5). Speak clearly into the **Built-in Microphone** (7). The **LED Indicator** (4) will glow red.
- Release the **PTT Key** (5) to stop transmitting and return to receive mode. The **LED Indicator** (4) will glow green when receiving a signal.

4. VOX Function (Voice Operated Exchange)

The VOX function allows for hands-free operation. When activated, the radio will automatically transmit when it detects your voice.

- The BF-T17 features 5 sensitivity levels for VOX. Refer to the radio's on-screen menu or specific programming instructions for activation and adjustment.

5. Flashlight

- Press the **Lamp/FM Key** (11) to turn the flashlight (2) on or off.

6. Channel Scan

The scan function allows the radio to automatically scan through channels to find active transmissions.

- To activate the scan function, press the "SCAN" button (often combined with the "LAMP" button, or a dedicated button depending on the specific unit's labeling).
- The radio will cycle through channels until an active signal is detected. It will pause on the active channel until the transmission ends, then resume scanning.

7. CTCSS/DCS Tones (Privacy Codes)

The BF-T17 supports 50 CTCSS tones and 210 DCS codes. These codes help filter out unwanted conversations on a channel. When a CTCSS/DCS code is set, you will only hear transmissions from radios using the same channel and the same CTCSS/DCS code.
Important Note on Compatibility: While the BF-T17 uses CTCSS/DCS codes, these may be pre-programmed and not directly user-configurable on the device itself. If attempting to communicate with other FRS radios, ensure their privacy codes are set to match the BF-T17's specific channel codes, or set to "OFF" for broader compatibility. Refer to the table below for common code mappings if available, or consult the official BAOFENG software for advanced programming.

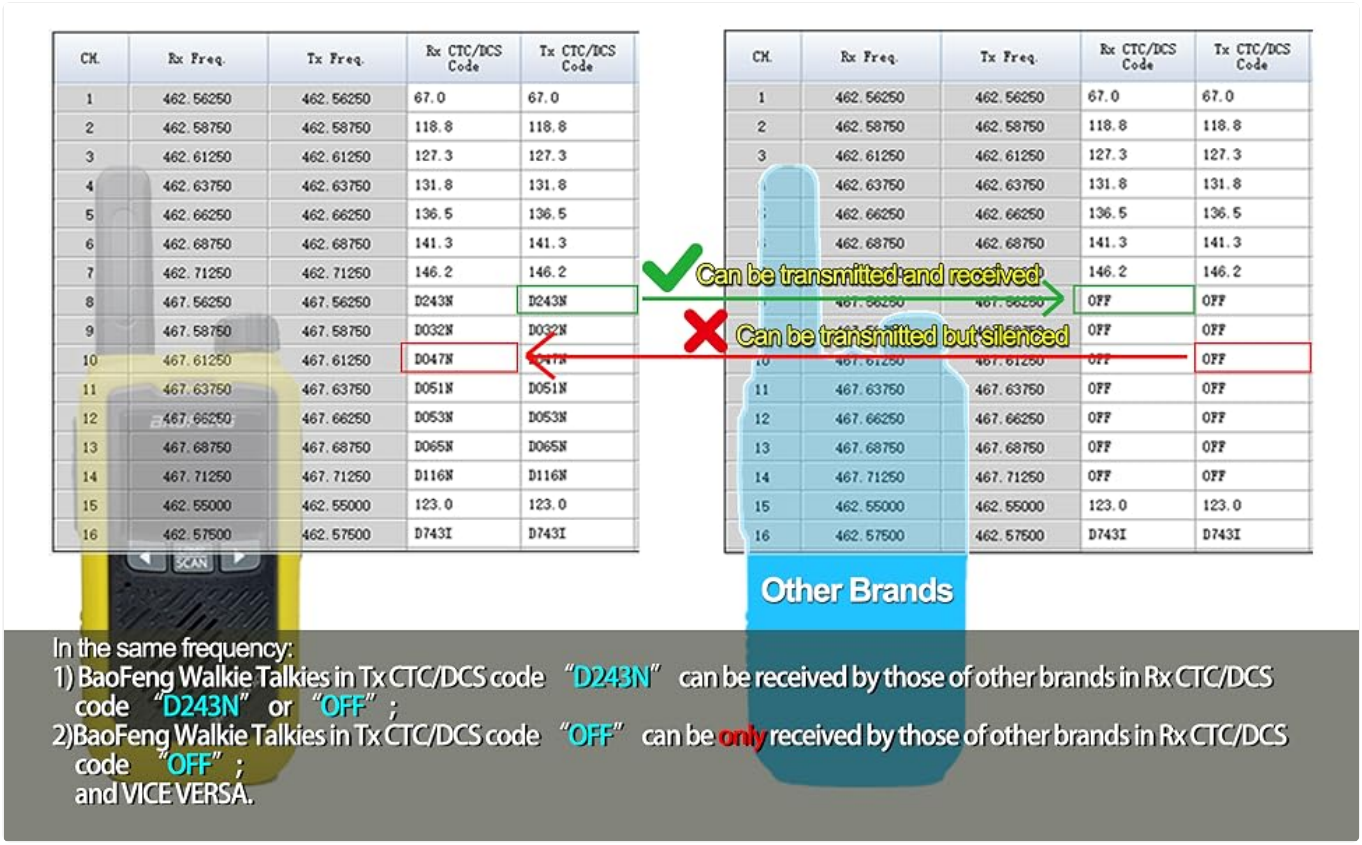


Image: A visual explanation of how CTCSS/DCS codes affect communication between BAOFENG BF-T17 radios and other FRS brands. It illustrates that communication is possible when codes match or when the receiving radio has its code set to 'OFF', but not when codes mismatch and are active.

For advanced programming and to potentially configure CTCSS/DCS codes, you may need to use BAOFENG's official programming software. This software can typically be downloaded from the manufacturer's website.



Image: A screenshot of the BAOFENG radio software download page, indicating where to find the programming software for the BF-T17 model. This is useful for users who wish to customize their radio's settings beyond basic operation.

Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, damp cloth to clean the radio's exterior. Do not use harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
- **Battery Care:** Avoid fully discharging the Li-ion battery frequently. Charge the battery regularly, even if the radio is not in use, to maintain battery health. Store the radio and battery in a cool, dry place.
- **Storage:** When storing the radio for extended periods, remove the battery.
- **Water Resistance:** This product is **Not Water Resistant**. Avoid exposure to rain, splashes, or immersion in water.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Radio does not power on.	Battery is depleted or not installed correctly.	Charge the battery. Ensure the battery is properly seated in the compartment.
Cannot transmit or receive.	Incorrect channel selected. Radios are out of range. Battery is low.	Verify both radios are on the same channel. Move closer to the other radio. Recharge the battery.
Hearing other conversations.	No CTCSS/DCS code set, or incorrect code.	Ensure all radios are using the same CTCSS/DCS code on the same channel. If communicating with other brands, ensure their codes are compatible or set to 'OFF'.
Poor audio quality or static.	Weak signal due to distance or obstacles. Low battery. Interference.	Move to an open area or closer to the other radio. Recharge the battery. Avoid sources of electronic interference.

Specifications

Feature	Detail
Brand	BAOFENG
Model	BF-T17
Frequency Range	462-467 MHz (FRS)
Number of Channels	22 FRS Channels
CTCSS Tones	50
DCS Codes	210
Output Power	Max 2W
Battery Capacity	1500mAh Li-ion
Charging Port	Type-C USB
Voltage	3.7 Volts (DC)
Talking Range (Maximum)	Up to 2-3 miles (in open areas)
Special Features	Rechargeable, VOX, Flashlight, Channel Scan, Battery Save, Time-out Timer, 2-pin Kenwood accessory jack
Unit Height	Less than 10 cm

Feature	Detail
Unit Weight	120 g
Package Dimensions	17.2D x 21.6W x 5.6H Centimetres
Package Weight	400 g
Water Resistance Level	Not Water Resistant

Safety Information

- Do not operate the radio in explosive atmospheres (e.g., near flammable gas, dust particles, metallic powders).
- Do not modify the radio. Unauthorized modifications can void your warranty and violate FRS regulations.
- Keep the radio away from medical devices, as it may cause interference.
- Use only BAOFENG approved batteries and accessories.
- Do not expose the battery to fire or extreme heat.
- Dispose of batteries according to local regulations.

Warranty and Support

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the documentation provided with your purchase or contact BAOFENG customer service directly. Contact details are typically available on the manufacturer's official website.

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