

TB-1302B

Setup Procedure for IC-R20 for use with Wildlife Telemetry

*Cam Grant, M.Sc. P.Eng., Sigma Eight Inc.
October 30, 2013*

The Icom IC-R20 is an excellent, low cost, commercially available radio that can be used for basic wildlife radio tracking since it includes a CW reception mode. The receiver has a large number of features and modes that can be overwhelming to the new user making it difficult to get the receiver in the proper mode for listening to telemetry signals. The following step by step procedure can be used to configure the receiver.

1. Perform a partial reset to get the receiver into a known default configuration by turning the receiver off and then holding the (VFO/MHz) button while turning the receiver back on.
2. Punch in the frequency you wish to use (i.e. 150.320). As soon as the last digit is entered the receiver will tune to that frequency.
3. Press the (mode) button until the letters CW are shown on the screen near the top.
4. Press and hold the (SQL) button on the side and turn the right hand knob (R) counter clockwise till the words "SQUELCH: OPEN" appear at the bottom.

You should now be able to hear your signal. You might want to increase your volume by turning the left (L) knob or fine tune the frequency with the right (R) knob. The audio from the receiver is a little weak, so in noisy environments, it will be better to use a headset. The audio jack is mono, so you might want to use a mono to stereo adaptor (available from your local Source or Radio Shack store) to be able to hear the sound in both ears of a stereo headset. From now on you can simply select the frequency you want by entering it directly on the keypad.

Other Useful Settings

There are a couple of other useful settings for tracking and they are set as follows:

Input Attenuation

The input attenuation reduces the strength of very strong signals so that it doesn't top out the signal strength meter making it a little bit easier to locate a nearby signal.

1. Press and hold the button under ATT.
2. ATT will appear on the screen at the bottom left.
3. To turn it off, press and hold the ATT button again.

RF Gain

If the signal is still very strong, you might want to reduce the RF Gain.

1. Press and hold the button under RF GAIN for 1s.
2. Adjust the right (R) button to the gain level you want.
3. Press and hold the RF GAIN button again.