VARA GoBox

Quick Set-up

Unpacking and Hook-ups

* Remove both the front and back of the box by turning the latch handles.
* Connect antennae as needed. The 1.5’ antennae in the box is for VHF. An external antenna is needed for HF. The Kenwood TS-2000 is capable of VHF, UHF and HF. Connectors for VHF and HF are conveniently located on the back panel. You do not need to connect both antennae but connect at least one for the band you want to transmit on. Do not turn on radio until the appropriate antenna is connected.
* Plug in the Power supply and turn it on. If the radio does not come on, press the power button in the upper left corner of the radio. The auto tuner should come automatically on when the radio is powered up.

There are lots of buttons on this rig, indicating the complexity and power of this transceiver. See the image below for a small subset of buttons and dials that you will actually be using on a regular basis, which are circled. If you want to explore more there is a Nifty Guide to the radio somewhere in the box.

General Operation

* Make sure ANT1 is shown on the display so the AutoTuner will be connected
* Frequencies can be chosen by rotating the center dial, rotating the MULTI CH dial on the far right, accessing a frequency stored in memory or via keypad entry.
* For big frequency jumps, use the keypad by pressing ENT, then the frequency with a period, then ENT again. You can then fine tune with the big tune dial.
* Volume is adjusted using the MAIN inner dial on the bottom right, labeled AF
* Squelch is controlled by the outer ring of the same dial.
* Using Memory and Variable Frequency Operation (VFO).
  + These buttons are to the lower right of the main tuning dial. Once you understand these procedures they make sense, but to me they were not intuitive.
  + VFO/M toggles between VFO tuning and stored memories (M).
    - When the display shows A or B it is in VFO mode, and you can tune using the big dial or the Multi CH dial.
    - When the display shows M, you can move up and down through the memories using the MULTI CH dial.
    - If you change a to a new memory frequency, you MUST press the M>VFO button to use the recalled memory and tune using VFO.
  + Low memories (1+) have FM frequencies stored in them; upper memories (290+) have HF frequency ranges stored in them. Press the VFO/M button to go into M mode and rotate the MULTI CH knob. Hint: going counterclockwise below 1 gives you access to memory channels 290+, which contain HF frequency ranges.

HF Operation

* Make sure an appropriate antenna is connected to the HF SO-259 connector on the back panel.
* The radio should already be in AUTO mode for LSB/USB. If not, select as appropriate using the button up and to the left of the big dial. If not set to AUTO, you can set it to AUTO by pressing FUNC (weird button to the left of MIC) and then LSB/USB. This makes life a little easier.
* Frequency tuning is accomplished by pressing AT on the far left. Hold for 2 seconds and the radio and tuner will communicate and tune to the HF antenna.

FM Operation

* Make sure an appropriate antenna is connected to the VHF SO-259 connector on the back panel.
* When you enter a FM frequency, the radio will automatically go into FM mode.

Digital Operation

* The radio does not have a Digital Mode. Make sure that the band is set to USB for all digital modes. The radio will automatically select LSB for some modes and that will not work for Digital.

