

Baofeng BF-888S FAQs Page

NEWEST RADIO / FIRMWARE

Q: Can the BF-888S firmware be updated?

A: No. The firmware cannot be updated.

The microcontroller is an OTP (One Time Programmable)

Once 'flash' programmed at the factory, it cannot be changed.

TRANSMITTER and RECEIVER

Q: I can't key or hear my local repeater.

A: Review the Tone Access section of this page.

Q: I can't hear my signal through the repeater, but I hear the repeater tail.

A: The key here is that you can hear the repeater squelch tail.

You are too close to your receiver and over powering (de-sensing) it.

When this happens, you are blocking everything from your monitor.

1) Listen to your signal on simplex to verify your audio.

2) Call someone on the repeater to verify your signal quality.

If they can hear you, then all is fine.

Q. What range can I expect from these radios?

A. There are many factors to consider. Power, antenna, antenna height, HASL (height above sea level), terrain, obstruction, trees, horizon, etc. A good starting point for simplex operation would be QSL.net/distance Your Mileage may Vary.

TONE ACCESS (CTCSS, DCS, DTMF)

Q: Why can't I key or hear my local repeater, fire dept, etc. ?

A: Some Repeaters and Services require a CTCSS (PL) tone for access but DO NOT transmit one back. If your display indicates there is an incoming signal but you hear no audio, you may have an incorrect or unnecessary RX tone set. When in doubt, leave the RX tone OFF.

Q: What are these CTCSS (PL) and DCS tones I keep hearing about?

A: A CTCSS is an 'Tone' sent along with your voice when transmitting.

They are used to access a specific repeater and block interference.

Visit [CTCSS](#) for details.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q: Why did my radio shut down when I took it out of my pocket.

A: If you carry your radio and keys in the same pocket, a case is recommended. If the charging contacts are shorted, the battery goes into the protection mode. There will be no damage to the battery or radio, but the radio will power off. To reset the protection mode, the battery must be removed and reinserted.

Q: Did I get a used radio? My radio had frequencies pre-programmed.

A: No. Your radio is new. These are channels used for factory testing.

Some of the channels may not be valid without authorization.

The list of pre-installed channels can be found at: [Recovery Files](#)

Q: Where can I get a User Manual?

A: You can download on [Radioddity.com](#)