

PL-660 tips and tricks for a blind user

Control description and keypad layout of the Tecsun PL 660 receiver.

The PL 660 front panel has a curved surface and contains speaker and keypad. The speaker occupies the left hand third of the panel. The upper third of the right hand side houses the LCD display whilst the keypad is located below the LCD display.

Along the right hand edge of the receiver, from top to bottom are the tuning control, BFO and volume control.

Along the left hand edge of the receiver from top to bottom:

- FM and SW external antenna-3.5mm mono socket
- Antenna attenuator switch, 3 position, Upper position DX, middle position Normal, lower position Local.
- Tone switch: 2 position Treble and Bass
- Headphone socket: 3.5mm stereo
- DC input socket. Requires 9.5 x 5.5 x 1.7mm plug. Polarisation required is Centre Negative.

Along the top edge of the receiver from left to right: Power, Time set, Timer A set and Timer B set.

The keypad contains one set of 12 identical keys and to the right of that group, 6 other keys (3 rows of 2 keys per row) which are smaller than the first 12.

At the **extreme right hand side** of the front panel, there are 6 round keys.

From top to bottom they are display back-light, VFO/memory toggle, airband, SSB, sync, and FM stereo/AM bandwidth.

The 12 keys on the **left hand side** of the keypad comprise 4 rows of 3 keys per row.

- The top row is 1,2,3
- The second row is 4,5,6
- The third row is 7,8,9
- The fourth row is memory location select, zero, and the enter/memory delete toggle.

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Some keys have dual functionality, these are 1,2,3,5, and 0. These functions are accessed when the receiver is turned off, and the LCD displays the relevant setting.

Dual functions are:

- **#1** key: FM band set. User can toggle between 76-108 and 87-108Mhz
- **#2** key: turns LW on or off
- **#3** key: press it for 1 second and it toggles between either 9 or 10Khz channel spacing.
 - If 10KHz is selected the AM range is 520-1710Khz
 - If 9Khz is selected the range becomes 520-1620KHz.
- **#5** key turns the LCD back-light on or off. There is no locating pip on this key.
- **#0** key: turns the keyboard lock on and off.

The memory key (**left hand column bottom key**) turns the battery charging function on or off

The smaller grouping of 6 keys (3 rows of 2 keys per row) are as follows:

- Top row left hand key: memory page minus (ie decreases the page number)
- Top row right hand key: memory page plus (ie increases the page number)
- Middle row left hand key: AM band select
- Middle row right hand key: FM band select
- Lower row left hand key: selects lower SW band
- Lower row right hand key: selects higher SW band

Considering the vertical row of buttons to the right hand side of the keypad and close to the edge of the receiver, from top to bottom:

- Top button: Light/Snooze. Short press turns the LCD back-light on. A long press changes the tuning speed from fast to slow. Snooze can be toggled on or off, but only when an alarm has been set. If you set snooze, the alarm will be silenced for 5 minutes before reappearing.
- Second button: VF/VM. Toggles between VFO and memory mode. If the memory mode is selected, the tuning control allows the user to select the desired memory location.

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- Bottom button: FM Stereo/ AM bandwidth. Toggles AM bandwidth between wide and narrow when in the AM or SW modes. When in the FM mode, this button toggles between mono and stereo.

SYNC (fifth button down on the right hand side of the receiver).

When receiving a shortwave signals suffering from fading, press the Sync button. This places the receiver into the SSB mode and uses the “exalted carrier” method recover more signal by replacing one of the sidebands (an AM signal comprises the carrier and 2 sidebands) with a locally generated signal at the same frequency as the sideband. This minimises fading.