

TECSUN

RADIOS AUSTRALIA

PL-990x Controls Layout for the vision impaired

The PL-990x is a member of the latest generation Tecsun portable DSP receivers which covers LW, MW, SW and FM bands.

Most of the controls are accessible from the front panel. The front panel layout can be divided into halves. The left side of the front panel houses the speaker and the right hand side contains the LCD display, a standard 12 button keypad, and several additional columns of buttons.

The 12 button keypad follows the 4 row, 3 column format. The last row of buttons are: memory (press this button to store a frequency in memory then use the keypad to select a memory position), 0 (the zero button), and Delete which allows single key deletion of a frequency stored in memory, Hold the button down for 1 second to delete the frequency. The three buttons comprising the top row of the keypad are dual function. With the radio turned off the 1 key controls the FM coverage limits: either 64-108 or 88-108Mhz, the 2 button allows LW toggle On/Off, the 3 button toggles 9/10kHz MW channel spacing.

Along the top edge centred on the right hand side of this panel there are 3 functions controlled by a long plastic button. There must be separate switches below this button, as the functions controlled by it are from left to right: snooze, display and keypad lock (right hand end of this button).

Above the LCD display there is a group of 4 horizontal single buttons which are used to control micro SD card audio functions. The function of these buttons from left to right are: Play/ Pause/repeat track, Rewind (previous track/ replay), Stop, Fast Forward/ Next track. In addition to these 4 buttons there is a larger button to the left, which is the Power/Sleep button.

Below the LCD display there are 5 horizontally spaced buttons These are from left to right: Time (time set- press the button for 1 second then enter the time directly from the keypad), Timer A, Timer B, VF/VM (toggles from VFO to stored memories), Radio/MP3 which toggles between Micro SD playback and radio functions (Files on the micro SD card are played in MP3 format).

Along the left hand edge of the front panel, there are two slide switches. The uppermost is the Internal/External antenna switch (up selects internal) and below that the lower switch selects 2 positions of antenna gain: DX/Normal/Local. Dx is the uppermost position.

Along the left hand side of the receiver there are 4 sockets. From top to bottom they are external antenna input (3.5mm), fixed level audio line output (3.5mm), headphones output (3.5mm), and USB charging (micro USB type B).

Along the bottom panel of the receiver on the right hand side there is a slot for a micro SD card and a further to the right a pinhole to allow access to the reset function. Resetting the receiver does not cause any frequencies stored in memory to be lost. There are 2 rubber feet, one at each extremity of this panel for stability when the receiver is standing up.

To the right of the standard 12 button keypad there are 2 columns each of 2 rows allowing access to memory pages, AM bandwidth settings, shortwave bands and LSB/USB reception modes.

The uppermost pair of buttons are the Memory Page buttons which allow the user to increase or decrease the memory pages into which frequencies are stored.

The second pair of buttons allows the user to change the AM bandwidth setting. By repeatedly pressing either button the receiver will step through 0.5 kHz, 1.2 kHz, 2.3 kHz, 3.0 kHz, 4.0 kHz. So to decrease the IF bandwidth setting press the left hand button and to increase the bandwidth press the right hand button. Note that these settings are presented in a continuous loop, so if you have selected the narrowest setting (0.5 kHz), it will be necessary to press the right hand button of this pair to step to the next bandwidth setting.

The third pair of buttons allows selection of the standard shortwave bands. Unlike the bandwidth buttons above, these do operate in a continuous loop. The starting frequencies for each band are: 2300 kHz, 3200 kHz, 3900 kHz, 5000 kHz, 6000 kHz, 7100 kHz, 10000 kHz, 11450 kHz, 13600 kHz, 15900 kHz, 17650 kHz, 19000 kHz, 21450 kHz, 26000 kHz.

The lowest pair of buttons allow the user to select LSB (left hand button) or USB (right hand button).

To the right of these 2 columns of buttons there is a single column of 4 buttons allowing selection (from top to bottom) FM, LW/MW toggle and SSB/Sync.

Along the right hand edge of the receiver from top to bottom we can find the rotary Tuning button, a slide switch controlling the LCD backlight (the lower setting is OFF), below that is the rotary Fine Tuning control and below that there is the Volume Control.

There is also a slide switch on the right hand side of the receiver which controls the Tone. Up is Treble boost, down is Bass boost.