



INSTRUCTIONS

MANUAL

Agent's Business Card

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QUICK START

This Quick Start contains the basic steps necessary to set up and operate your Talking House Transmitter.

Please read the detailed procedures in this Manual for complete instructions.

1 Make sure the Control Lock Key is inserted in the Control Lock located on the back of the Transmitter. This key must be completely inserted to record messages and set the frequency on the Transmitter.

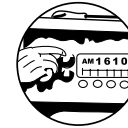
2 The next step each time you set-up the Transmitter is to uncoil and fully extend the Basic Antenna Wire. This must be done before plugging the Transmitter in, and each time the Transmitter is unplugged or moved for any reason. *For complete instructions, refer to "Positioning the Basic Antenna" on page 8.*

3 **ALWAYS** plug the power pack into a wall outlet **FIRST**, and then plug the power cord jack into the Custom Power Input located on the back of the Transmitter. While this may seem peculiar, the Transmitter just prefers this method, so make it happy. The Transmitter will begin calibrating itself. When it is finished calibrating, the frequency appears on the display panel. If the Transmitter takes longer than two minutes to calibrate, or displays **ERR** on the Display Panel, *refer to page 11 on Troubleshooting.*

4 Plug the hand-held microphone into the MIC jack located on the back of the Transmitter.

5 You are now ready to record the message that will be broadcast. Be sure to plan your message carefully. To record your message, the first step is to make sure to set the Two-Part Message Select on the Back Panel to the appropriate position.

6 Now, press and hold the Record/Pause button on the Front Panel until you see the countdown begin on the Front Display. Then, release the button and record your message speaking clearly into the Hand-Held Mic. When you are finished, wait a second or two, then press and hold the **Play** button until you see the frequency reappear. Your message is now being broadcast in a continuous loop!



7 Next, you'll need to find the best AM frequencies for your area. You must do an Outdoor Frequency Test to choose the best frequencies. *Please see the complete instructions for this test on page 7.*

8 Now, it's time to determine the best place to put the Transmitter in the house. Locate a place that is high up in the property and centrally located. Once you are ready to set-up the Transmitter, be sure to properly extend the Basic Antenna **BEFORE** you plug it in. And, do not touch the antenna after the unit has calibrated. Also note: A common mistake in placing the Transmitter inside a location is to put it in front of a large window. Don't make this mistake. Glass blocks radio signals.



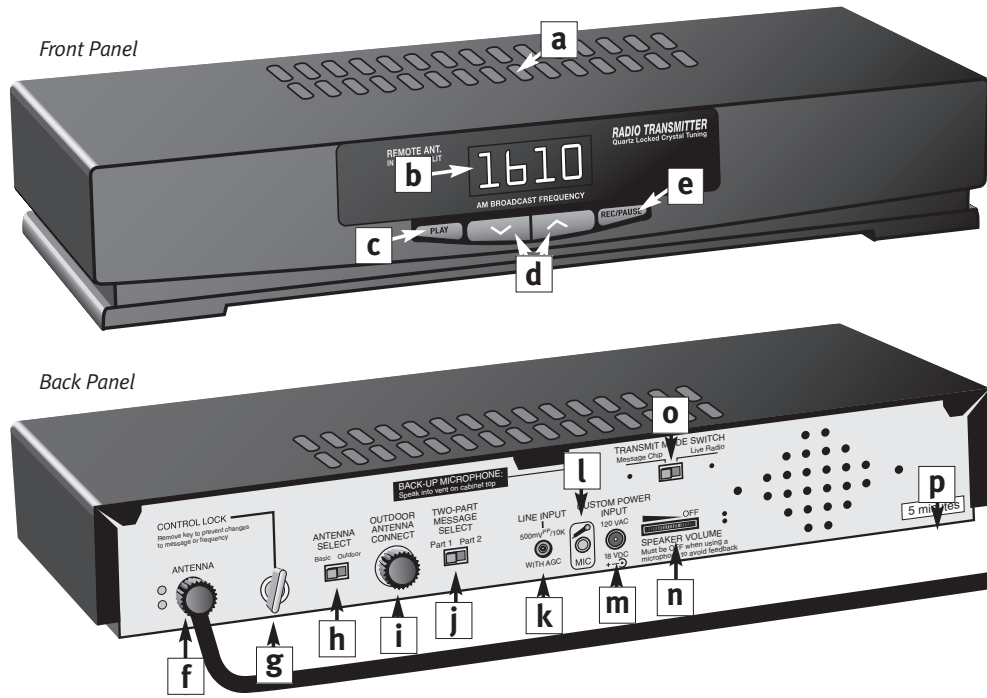
9 Once you have determined the frequency that works best in your area, use the supplied decals to insert the numeric digits to make your yard sign reflect the proper frequency. Place the yard sign in the yard and the directional sign in a place where it will send drivers toward the home.



10 You're all set! Go out to your car, tune in your radio, and listen to your message. Make sure it sounds good and that you are happy with it. You can re-record your message at any time, or switch to a better frequency.



CONTROLS AND SPECIFICATIONS



Controls and Connections

- a. Back-up Microphone** — Under vents on top of Transmitter.
- b. Frequency Display Panel** — Indicates the frequency while broadcasting,
 - displays the time remaining while recording,
 - alternately flashes the selected frequency and “CAL” while calibrating,
 - displays “ERR” message when the transmitter cannot successfully calibrate
- c. Play Button**
- d. Frequency Selection Buttons**
- e. Record/Pause Button**
- f. Basic Antenna Connect** — Flexible three meter (approximately 10') black, rubberized wire comes pre-connected and is the actual transmitting antenna.
- g. Control Lock** — Key must be inserted into the Control Lock to record a message or select a frequency. When removed, your message and chosen frequency are locked.

- h. Outdoor Antenna Select** — Switch that is used for the Outdoor Antenna accessory.
- i. Outdoor Antenna Connect** — Connection that the Outdoor Antenna attaches to, if using this accessory.
- j. Two-Part Message Select** — Switch that indicates position of the message currently being recorded. Controls the Two-Part Message System.
- k. Line Input** — Mini-Jack (1/8 inch) for direct broadcasting, or to use with an external audio source for downloading a prerecorded message to the Message Chip.
- l. MIC** — Input jack that the hand-held microphone plugs into.
- m. Custom Power Input** — Input jack that the power pack from the wall outlet plugs into.
- n. Speaker Volume** — Volume control used to adjust the internal speaker volume up or down. Does not affect broadcasting volume.
- o. Transmit Mode Switch** — Switch that is used to select between broadcasting a message from the Message Chip, or broadcasting “live”.
- p. Message Length** — Sticker indicates the amount of record/playback time on the Message Chip.

Technical Specifications

The Talking House Transmitter conforms to the following technical specifications:

- Frequency Choices: 520 to 1700 AM
- Message Storage: Digital Voice Record/Playback Computer Chip
- Microphone: Built-in or hand-held
- Size: 8" x 14" x 2.5" Weight: 4 lbs.
- Basic Antenna: Three meter (approximately 10') black, rubberized 18-gauge wire
- Power: 110/120VAC
- Transmitting power: 100 MW average
- CAUTION: To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this unit to rain. And, do not open or remove cover.
- FCC: No separate license required. FCC Authorization #DLB5LTT98
- FCC Regulations state that any unauthorized changes or modifications to this equipment not expressly approved by the manufacturer could void the user's authority to operate this equipment.
- U.S. Patent No. 6,295,443. Other patents pending.

RECORDING YOUR MESSAGE

Step	Action
1	Plan out your message.
2	Make sure the Control Lock Key is inserted in the Control Lock located on the back of the Transmitter.
3	Make sure the Two-Part Message Switch located on the back panel is switched to the Part 1 Message position.
4	Make sure the TRANSMIT MODE SWITCH on the back panel is set to “Message Chip”.
5	Press and hold the Record/Pause button on the front of the Transmitter until the Display Panel begins counting down in seconds (i.e. 300, 299, 298...). NOTE: Release the Record/Pause button once you see the count down begin.
6	Speak loudly and clearly into the hand-held microphone (or back-up microphone behind the vents on top of the Transmitter). For best results, use the hand-held microphone.
7	To pause during recording, press the Record/Pause button on the front of the Transmitter. This will “freeze” the counter/timer. Then, push Record/Pause again when you’re ready to resume.
8	When you have completed your voice message, wait a second or two, then press and hold the Play button located on the front of the Transmitter until you see the frequency reappear on the display panel.
9	To change the message, simply repeat steps 1-8.

CHOOSING THE BEST FREQUENCY

1. Overview

Talking House Transmitters have a patented tuning system designed to perfectly tune the output at every AM frequency. However, the AM frequencies that will work best for your house will vary dramatically depending on where you live in the U.S. The performance of the Transmitter is impacted by geography, topography, and even the mineral content of the soil under a structure. Therefore, it is up to you to find the best frequency. This is easy to do! You must faithfully execute an Outdoor Frequency Test which is described in detail on the next page.

The Transmitter can be set to any available AM frequency using the up & down buttons on the front panel. There are 117 choices. We have found that it is best to start at 1700 and go down because there are only a few commercial stations assigned to frequencies between 1600 and 1700.

Finding the best frequency is your most important task. So, you must do an **Outdoor Frequency Test**. With someone's help, it should take about 30 minutes. The goal of this test is to get the antenna outside the house in order to eliminate interference from the construction materials of the house itself. The instructions for this test are on the next page.

Things to Consider. Here are some additional points to consider when searching for the best frequencies:

- There are very few commercial radio stations assigned to frequencies between 1600 AM and 1700 AM. Therefore, this is the best place to start looking for the best frequencies.
- The Transmitter has a patented tuning system to perfectly tune the output at each frequency. This is the mechanical noise heard when you change frequencies. The LED will flash CAL while the motor moves the tuning system, until it finds the peak output for the frequency. If the LED on the Display Panel flashes ERR, unplug the power cord from the back of the Transmitter, reposition the basic antenna, and plug the power cord back into the Transmitter.
- At night, many more distant stations can be picked up and can interfere with your signal. If you're planning to be heard at night, it is best to make sure that your chosen frequency is available both night and day. Do not expect to get quite as good reception at night as you will during the day.

2. Outdoor Frequency Test

Follow the steps below to find the best frequency for your location. This procedure will take about 30 minutes, and is absolutely necessary in order to achieve the best reception.

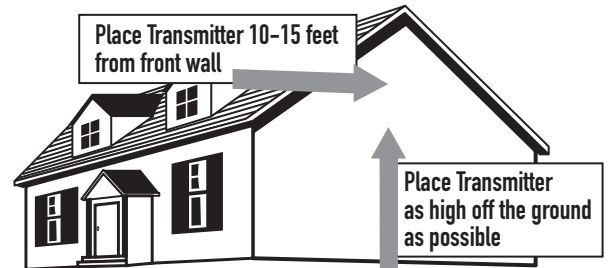
Step	Action
1	The goal of this test is to find the best AM frequency for you to use at your location. By “best” we mean the radio frequency which has the best sound quality coming out of a car radio parked at the curb in front of your house. To get started, park your own car in front of your house at the curb where a home shopper might pull-up to look at the house. Tune your car radio to 1700 on the AM band. To do this test, you need to have a sample message already recorded on the Transmitter. <i>Refer to the instructions on previous pages on how to record a message.</i>
2	Once inside the house, set-up the Transmitter on the window sill of an open window, and let the antenna wire hang completely outside the window. Be sure not to let the Transmitter fall out of the window. (Perhaps close the window on the Transmitter to hold it in place.) You are doing this to get the antenna wire completely outside the house in order to eliminate the interference from the construction materials of the house itself. It is absolutely critical that the antenna wire hang completely free. It can not be touching the house, the window, or especially, the ground. Because of this, it is often best to do this test in a second story window. If your house is one-story, you must still be sure the antenna wire does not touch the ground. You may need to fold the antenna wire in half, and place a piece of tape around it just to be sure it does not touch the ground, but is still hanging free of touching anything else.
3	Once you have the transmitter secure on the window sill, and the antenna wire hanging out the window not touching the ground or the house, you can now plug-in the Transmitter in a standard, three pronged, grounded electrical outlet. The Transmitter should start to tune itself to the last frequency it was set to. Make sure the Control Lock Key is completely inserted into the Control Lock jack on the back of the Transmitter.
4	Set the frequency on the Transmitter to 1700 AM by pressing the Tuning Up and Down buttons located on the front of the Transmitter. Once the Transmitter has calibrated itself, and is broadcasting its message, go out to your car and check the reception. If the reception is crystal clear, 1700 AM is a usable frequency. Now, go back in the house, and change the frequency to 1690 AM. Repeat the process of going out to your car to check the quality of reception. You must repeat this process at each frequency as you work your way down the dial until you find the very best frequency. At each frequency, remember to stop and wait for the Transmitter to recalibrate itself.
5	The frequency that is the most crystal clear on your car radio is the best to use. Do not use a frequency if any of the following occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• you hear another voice or music on the station,• there is lots of whistling, static, or other interference, or• the signal fades in and out.
6	To make the Outdoor Frequency Test easier to execute, it’s sometimes best to find a friend who’s willing to help. We recommend that the friend be the one inside the house changing the frequencies on the Transmitter. You should be the one in the car listening to each frequency, and determining which one has the best reception. You can be talking to each other on your cell phones. This will dramatically cut down on the time it will take to do this test.

BEST PLACEMENT INSIDE A LOCATION

Placement of the Transmitter Inside a Location

After determining the best frequency, it's time to choose the location inside the house where the Transmitter will sit. Proper placement of the Transmitter inside the house is essential to gaining the best possible reception and distance while using the basic antenna.

In general, it is best to put the Transmitter toward the front of a house, and on the second floor. But, not right on the front wall of a house. Here's why: AM radio waves have a hard time going through brick, steel, stucco, and even glass. Plus, AM radio waves, literally, bounce off the ground as the means by which they broadcast their signal. Therefore, the higher off the ground you get the Transmitter and antenna, the further the signal will travel. This is why 2nd floors and attics work so well. Plus, by positioning it 10 to 15 feet back from the front wall of the house, it gives the signal more opportunities to find its way out. The garage is often a good alternative, too, if you put it high up on a shelf. Because of the problems with glass, never put a Transmitter directly in front of a window. You'll want to choose a location where the basic antenna will remain undisturbed as it should not be moved or touched after it is positioned.



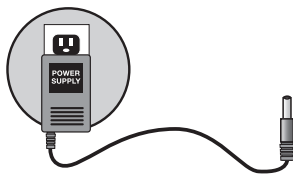
Positioning the Basic Antenna

About the Basic Antenna. The Talking House Transmitter comes with a three-meter (approximately 10') attached black, rubberized wire antenna. This is the maximum length permitted by the FCC. The Transmitter has been designed to calibrate to this three-meter wire. Altering the length of this wire will prevent the Transmitter from accurately performing this function and will subsequently cause calibration problems. Therefore, substitution of a longer antenna will not increase the range and may actually reduce it. Once the Transmitter is calibrated, the antenna can not be touched or moved, as this will compromise the tuning. It is very important that you tell this to everyone in the house who may come in contact with the Transmitter.

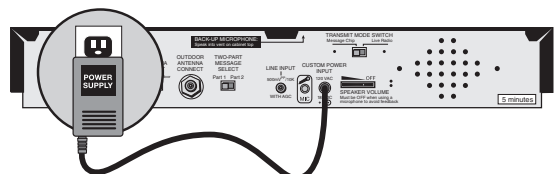
Positioning the Basic Antenna. Follow the steps below to position the Basic Antenna. Each time the Transmitter is unplugged or moved, or the basic antenna has been disturbed, this procedure must be repeated.

Plugging in the Transmitter

FIRST
Plug the power pack into the wall socket.



SECOND
Plug into jack on back panel of Transmitter.



Step	Action
1	Uncoil and fully extend the antenna. This must be done BEFORE plugging in the Transmitter to allow the Transmitter to properly calibrate.
2	ALWAYS plug the power pack into a wall outlet FIRST, then plug the other end into the Custom Power Unit jack located on the back of the Transmitter. While this may seem peculiar, the Transmitter just prefers this method, so make it happy. RESULT: The Transmitter will begin calibrating itself. When it is done, the frequency appears on the display panel. If the Transmitter takes longer than two minutes to calibrate, or displays ERR on the Display Panel, refer to pages 11 - 12.

Should the antenna be horizontal or vertical? While there is no absolute answer to this question, it is usually better to have the antenna stretched up vertically for maximum range. The additional height you gain by running the antenna up a wall, as opposed to running it along the floor, will increase signal distance. The higher up you get the Transmitter and antenna, the further away you will hear the signal. As such, having the antenna run horizontally along a 2nd floor baseboard is better than having it run vertically up a wall on the 1st floor.

Final Installation Steps

Now, go out to your car and listen to the message to be sure that it is broadcasting clearly at the location where cars will stop and listen. If it is not clear, change the frequency on the Transmitter to an alternate frequency and go listen again. Try this at least once or twice to find the best frequency.

If after changing the frequency several times you are still experiencing problems:



- Move the Transmitter to another electrical outlet inside the location.
- Move the Transmitter and/or Basic Antenna away from large windows.
Glass blocks radio signals.
- Try putting the Transmitter in the center of the building, especially if the building is made of brick or stucco.
- Because height helps the range, try a second or third story. Attics or garage rafters are great too.

Tips for Unique Locations

Slab Homes—As we mentioned, AM radio waves, literally, bounce off the ground as the means by which they broadcast their signal. Therefore, the higher off the ground you get the Transmitter and antenna, the further the signal will travel. This is why 2nd floors work better. But, if you don't have a second floor, that can give some distance between the Transmitter and the ground, you need to still try to get some height. For homes on slabs, we strongly urge you to place the Transmitter as high up in the home as possible. Perhaps on a high shelf, or if available, in an attic. And, use masking tape to hold the antenna well off the floor (or ground).

Stucco Homes—AM radio signals also have a problem going through stucco. The best solution for stucco homes is, first, try to get the Transmitter and antenna as high as you can in the home. This way the signal can usually go out the roof. Second, place the Transmitter towards the middle of the home. This gives the signal more room away from the obstructions to try to find a way out. Finally, try putting the Transmitter on a high shelf in the garage.

Garages—Placing the Transmitter in the garage of the home will often be one of the best places to solve signal problems. However, please note, that getting height is extremely important. So, if you try the garage, make sure you put the Transmitter on a high shelf, and use masking tape to tape-up the antenna. Also, garages usually have ground fault electrical outlets which the Transmitter will sometimes "trip". No damage will occur. Just try a different electrical outlet to find one that the Transmitter doesn't trip.

SETTING UP THE YARD SIGNS

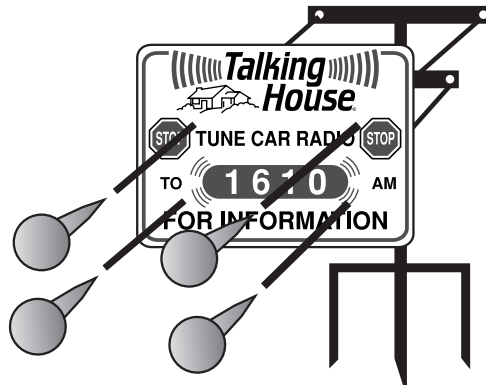
The Talking House yard sign tells people to “tune in”. Without proper placement of the sign, listeners won’t know you have a message to be heard and all of your efforts will have been wasted.

Step	Action
1	If the frequency you are using at this location is other than 1610, use the supplied decals to change the yard sign to show the correct frequency.
2	Attach the yard sign to its stand, using the 4 plastic self-locking push pins supplied. Simply line up the four holes, and insert the pins through the sign into the stand. Once snapped into place, these push pins will hold the yard sign securely to the stand.
3	Place the YARD sign in a conspicuous location, where cars driving by will clearly see it and be able to read the frequency they should tune into to hear your message. Make sure it is planted firmly in the ground so that it does not fall over.

STEP 1



STEP 2



TROUBLESHOOTING

The following pages provide some common troubleshooting solutions. If you are experiencing a problem not addressed here or the problem is not resolved with these suggestions, please contact your real estate agent.

Problem

The Transmitter doesn't power-up when I plug it in an electrical outlet.

Solution

Be sure you have plugged in the Transmitter correctly. ALWAYS plug the power pack into an electric outlet FIRST, and then plug the power cord jack into the Custom Power Input located on the back of the Transmitter. If the Transmitter does not power-up, first check that the power cord jack is securely inserted into the Customer Power Input on the back of the Transmitter. Next, try switching to a different electrical outlet, and repeat these plug-in procedures. If the Transmitter still does not power-up, ask your real estate agent for an alternative power supply.

Problem

The Transmitter:

- takes longer than 2 minutes to calibrate,
- shuts down, or
- displays ERR on the Display Panel

Solution

- 1 Unplug the power cord from the back of the Transmitter, leaving the power pack plugged into the wall outlet.
 - 2 Check that the basic antenna is attached tight.
 - 3 Reposition the antenna.
 - 4 Plug the power cord back into the Transmitter, letting it recalibrate.
 - 5 If the problem still occurs, unplug the unit, grab hold of the tip of the antenna wire and roll it up around your hand. As you get closer to the transmitter and run out of room, place the antenna down in an area next to the transmitter. (Not on top of the Transmitter. It must not be touching the metal cabinet of the Transmitter.) It's okay if the antenna then uncoils a bit. Now, plug in the Transmitter again. By doing this, you are telling the Transmitter to ignore the interference that it is picking up around the antenna, and it should calibrate immediately.
 - 6 If problem still occurs, try moving the Transmitter to another electrical outlet, and repeat the steps above.
-

Problem

Plugging in the Transmitter trips the Ground Fault Outlet

Solution

Ground Fault Detector (GFI) outlets are found in bathrooms and garages and will cut the power if they are tripped. The Transmitter may trip them, but no damage will occur. Make sure you plug the power supply cord into the outlet first, then plug the other end into the Transmitter. If you find that they are not compatible, just use another outlet.

Problem

Whistling or static sounds when listening on a car radio

Solution

This happens when you have not picked a good frequency. Just change to one of your alternative frequencies. You may need to re-do the Outdoor Frequency Test, and choose a better frequency.

Problem

Not getting enough range, or reception sounds weak/poor

Solution

- 1 Try using an alternate frequency.
 - 2 Make sure the Transmitter and antenna are back at least 10-15 feet from a window.
 - 3 Make sure when recording your message, you speak in a loud, clear voice.
 - 4 If problem still occurs, try moving the Transmitter to another location in the house, such as:
 - A second or third story,
 - A garage or attic,
 - Away from large windows, or
 - Into the center of the building.
 - 5 If the problem persists, you may need to perform another Outdoor Frequency Test. (See page 7.)
 - 6 Try using an alternate automobile as a test vehicle or even a portable radio. Some automobile manufacturers have weaker AM tuners than others. It may be the case that one vehicle may have a lot of static at the curb, while another vehicle can hear the same message loud and clear at the end of the street. Therefore, if you cannot seem to get good reception when the frequency appears to be “open” and available to broadcast on, try a different vehicle. It is possible that the Transmitter and the selected frequency is working fine, but the test vehicle radio has a poor AM receiver.
-

Problem

Getting static near power lines

Solution

High voltage power lines can cause interference with the Transmitter signal. Sometimes they can act like an electronic fence, preventing a clear signal to the street.

- 1 Try changing the frequency to one on the lower end of the band (530-800 kHz). These frequencies are not effected as much as the higher ones.
 - 2 Try putting the Transmitter in another building across the street. This way, power lines should not affect the transmission. Or, if it is a vacant lot, try asking a neighbor next door or across the street if you can place the Transmitter in their home or garage.
-

Problem

Front panel buttons don't respond/can't record.

Solution

Make sure the Control Lock Key is inserted in the CONTROL LOCK located on the back of the Transmitter and it is pushed all the way in.

Problem

Transmitter is making a loud clicking noise

Solution

Move the frequency up or down and let it calibrate. Once it has calibrated, reset to the original frequency.

Problem

The Transmitter's message is being heard on the telephone or causing internet dial-up problems.

Solution

This may occur when an inexpensive phone is present. The reason that you can purchase a telephone relatively cheap nowadays is that the manufacturers have cut their costs by eliminating circuits known as filters. While this may sound somewhat technical, there is a simple solution. At a Radio Shack store, you can purchase a product named Snap-Together Ferrite Choke Core (Radio Shack part #273-105). You simply unplug the phone line from the wall jack, snap open this product, wrap a short length of the phone line into the little box, and then re-connect the line into the wall jack. Make sure you take your filter with you when the Transmitter is no longer needed at this location. Keep it handy. You may run across this again.
