

CTX-10 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. The rear of the radio is marked 10 – 20 VDC for power input, but the User’s Guide says 5 – 20 VDC. Which is it?

A. The general recommendation is 10 – 20 VDC, since the current draw on the power supply will be about 1 Ampere at 10 VDC. The radio can charge at 5 VDC but would like to see about 2 Amperes to charge at the full rate. Lower current availability at 5 VDC will result in longer charging times. Future chassis’ may be marked 5 – 20 VDC to eliminate this question.

Q. When I whisper into the microphone nothing is transmitted. Is my radio broken?

A. Please refer to the Technical Notes - Ambient Noise Gate (ANG) – SSB Audio Processing for details.

Q. How should I clean and protect the finish of my radio?

A. The chassis is finished with a very durable powder coated paint finish. Surface dust can be removed with a slightly dampened soft cloth. Dust in the external heatsink grooves on the chassis can be removed with a dry or slightly dampened soft paint brush which will get to the bottom of the grooves. I can recommend a product such as *303 (30308) Aerospace Protectant for Plastic, Vinyl and Rubber* (or equivalent) available from Walmart. Use this to slightly dampen the cloth or paintbrush. These products should not leave a film or coating on the chassis. I do not recommend *Armor All* as I’ve found it leaves a nasty film that never seems to go away. Never spray any finish directly on the chassis. Use only a dry cloth or a LensPen (like you use on your camera lens) on the display screen. Treat your radio like you would your camera or binoculars.

Q. How do I ‘Zero Beat’ an incoming CW signal that I want to answer?

A. The CTX-10 transmits and receives on the exact frequency displayed, no offset. The CW sidetone is an internally generated ~710 Hz tone to indicate a key-down, transmitting condition. The receiver audio output is fixed at ~710 Hz offset from the received frequency. The sidetone frequency produced by the CTX-10 when transmitting CW is the same as the offset tone of the receiver. If you adjust the received signal’s pitch to be the same as the sidetone pitch, you will be transmitting on the same frequency as the station you are receiving. This is sometimes called Zero Beating, or more accurately Sidetone Matching.

Q. Can the CTX-10 be modified for Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) use?

A. Yes! The CTX-10 may be purchased already modified to allow general coverage transmit for folks who can provide proof of MARS authorization. Current owners can return the radio for necessary modifications and firmware modifications. Proof of MARS authorization is required for these modifications.

Contact: support@comradio.com for details.