

OpenMD9600 Instructions by Ian Spencer DJ0HF V3.0A 28.4.2022

Radio Walkaround

The MD9600 from TYT or the RT-90 from Retevis are the same radio and these instructions apply to both.

The transceiver has a typical mobile format measuring 14cm wide by 5 cm high and around 18cm deep making it much more suitable for mounting in the shack or the car than the GD77 handy many of you have been using up until now. It also offers 50 Watts on 2 metres and 45 watts on 70cm making it much more effect for working distant repeaters or perhaps accessing the FM satellites with simple antennas.

Rear View

In the centre at the back of the radio is a square block which is the fan which runs all the time you are transmitting irrespective of the power level used. To the left of that is the SO239 antenna socket for a 2 metre/70cm antenna. To the right of the fan, near the top we come first to the 12volt power connector and a power lead is supplied with the radio. Further to the right is a rubber cover over the 3.5mm jack external loudspeaker socket. Below the power connection is another rubber cover and beneath it is the MiniUSB socket for use with the programming cable to connect the MD9600/RT-90 to your computer.

Front panel layout

Top left on the front panel of the transceiver is the green power button used to power the radio both on and off and below this is the rotary volume control. To the right of these two controls is the LCD display which covers around 50% of the front panel, It displays the text in large characters and so may be readable if you have some sight. It is much larger than the display on the GD77 but displays the same basic information. To the right of the display starting at the top is a button, this is arrow up and below this is the enter button, then moving further down the arrow down button and finally at the bottom the escape button. Going back to the top of this vertical line of buttons if you go to the right you will find the rotary control used to change channels and set menu items and below this is the RJ45 socket which

makes the connection to the microphone supplied with the radio. If you go back down to the escape button and then to the left below the display there are 5 buttons horizontally, the left hand one is round and is the orange button just like the orange button on the top of the GD77 and to the right of that are 4 programmable buttons called P1 to P4.

Microphone Keypad layout

The microphone has a single long push button on the left hand side which is the PTT. And near the top of the microphone to the left of centre is a green led which lights when transmitting and to the right of that is the microphone which is best used by speaking across the microphone rather than directly into it.

Below this are 4 rows of 4 buttons which form the main part of the keypad. Taking the top horizontal row first they are labelled 1, 2, 3 and A. The second row down are 4,5,6 and B, then 7,8,9 and C and the last row is Asterisk or star then 0 and then hash and finally D. Below this keypad in the bottom left of the microphone is the large round A/B button and to the right of that up arrow and then further to the right a down arrow button. That completes the layout of the MD9600/RT-90 microphone. As you would expect the number buttons etc are also used to input alphabetic characters when naming channels etc. rather like on a smart phone. The exact functions of all the controls is different in OpenMD9600 when compared to the standard TYT/Retevis firmware and are covered in the OpenMD9600UI PDF which is part of this package.