

Ft-991 audio settings

I have had several conversations recently with the owners of Yaesu FT991 about setting the microphone profit. I've seen Youtube videos showing the operator setting the microphone profit so that ALC is going through a variety of ALC scales. The problem with that isn't just wrong, you'll also be over managing the PA causing you to splash through the band. The manual shows the following on page 59, section 5, In SSB mode, touch [MIC GAIN] and then adjust the multi knob so that the ALC zone of the meter (up to the middle of the scale) at the vocal peaks. Now the problem is that the manual is a little ambiguous in terms of what half the scale of the protrusion means, and in fact the supplied image does not even show the ALC meter. The default image shown in the FT991 manual. What's considered a half-scale outing? If we look at the actual ALC meter, shown below, is half the scale halfway along the blue ALC zone or halfway along the scale of 0 to +60dB? ALC meter display Well consider 0 - +60dB scale is for S meter not ALC, the full range ALC meter is in the blue zone only. After a few friendly arguments about it I called Yaesu UK and confirmed the blue zone is a whole range of ALC meters. So if the ALC is peaking at the red line in the image below then you will be through the control of the amplifier. Red line showing excessive level If you take voice peaks within the green line in the image below, you should be good to go, and will keep other operators near you from moaning at you. Green line showing the right level Just remember to adjust the drive level so you have maximum output is not the right thing to do. The difference between the output of, say, 40W or 50W to the other station won't even be visible, leaving you with clean transmissions. One additional point, if possible to set the microphone gain when transferring to the dummy load and adjust the ALC so the voice peaks actually come in slightly lower than the green line it will help take into account the fact that your antenna is almost certainly not presenting the impedance of 50 hms throughout the band. In my next post on FT991 I will look at setting the compression level to be within the parameters. February 2017, Just bought a Yaesu FT-991A to replace my 897D in a shack. As was the case with the 897D Factory 991A manual is not as complete as our colleagues Ham posts on the Internet. Below is all good on the 991A I could find. Sources K7FLA Winlink / RMS Setup Notes Software control package for 991 and other Yaesu radios Use with radios with IF out or with RSP SDR radio. Programming for iss voice repeater Suggested EQ settings: To increase TX sound, turn on MIC-EQ from the function keys of the screen. Set SSB out level, menu number 107 to 80 Set SSB TX BPF, menu number 110 to 300-2700 Set the following menu numbers to displayed values. (For the original FT-991 without updated firmware, the bid numbers will be 2 seats higher) Menu Description Value 119 EQ1 Freq 500 120 EQ1 Level 9 121 EQ1 BWTH 8 122 EQ2 Freq 1000 123 EQ2 Level 7 124 EQ2 BWTH 8 125 EQ3 Freq 2000 126 EQ3 Level 5 127 EQ3 BWTH 4 128 EO1 Freg 100 129 EO1 Level 10 130 EO1 BWTH 3 131 EO2 Freg 700 132 EO2 Level -3 133 EO2 BWTH 7 134 EO3 Freg 3200 135 EO3 Level 10 136 EO3 BWTH 2 Yaesu Serial Number Info: Year, Month. Production Number, Unit number e.g. 4N960040 4 = Year (2004) N = Month (Months start with C for January so N = December) 96 = Production Number and 0040 = Unit number. C = January, D = February, E = March, F = April, G = May, H = July, J = August, K = September, L = October, M = November, N = December service currency : WARNING - Do not change the service currency settings unless you are gualified to do so and with all appropriate test equipment. Press and hold the FAST, A/B and A=B buttons to save changes, press and hold the MENU/SETEP button until the radio restarts ft-991, it has a really fake start. The early FT-991 series suffered from a failed output phase and poor sound quality for AM. It is claimed (probably wrongly) that it would set up a bad bias. However, it gives a corrections expert that it is very likely that there has been a poor production run of RD100HHF1-101 FETs. This allows the RF amplifier not to function properly. The consequence of the unsuccessful FET in the exit phase is that the quiescent current running and the «bad» quiescent current is the result of FET failure. (Perhaps the wrong «carrier level» AM also contributed to this.) Many FET have been replaced under the guarantee. I understand that this problem can come in the 5j series to and from the 5j series problem in the factory has been solved by another production series of FETs. The failing output phase has nothing to do with the design of the transmitter or guality control in the factory, but the reason is the poor guality of the supplied component. problem information can be found about poorly transmitted AM sound guality on the Internet. To be sure it's true, I checked it out with my FT-991. AND AM SOUND QUALITY IS REALLY PRETTY BAD. FET is from the HF performance amplifier of my FT-991 are already replaced (in the Yaesu service center) and therefore there is no relationship between bad finals and poor AM sound quality. Based on my research, I can conclude that the solution is guite simple and can be done by yourself, fact checking As a start I wanted to be sure that the sound guality of AM is really poor. The FT-2000 has been set in reception mode and the dummy load is connected to the HF antenna port FT-991. Both radios are set to the same frequency. On all HF bands. AM sound guality was poor. Transmission performance and other settings didn't contribute to better audio. cause The cause of bad sound is incorrect to set the level in the service menu. Service guote entry 18-2 is a level setting for the am carrier level. If you have poor am audio transfer guality with ft-991, it is likely that the level setting is too high. (My radio was set to 066.) If the original service procedure is used, the resulting AM sound is not good. It is likely that the instructions, but that the instructions, but that the instruction is not correct. (According to service information, the S-meter should be set to 7 during service mode transmission at 14,200 MHz without modulation.) If the AM operator level setting is too high, the result is overdriven with poor AM transmission as a result. Solution Solution is quite simple and can be done by yourself. The transmitted am signal (and the resulting sound) will be good if am carrier level FT-991 is reduced. The procedure that I recommend is described below. Beware that the method described is different than Yaesu describes. I think it works great, but keep in mind that I'm not an authorized service engineer. Note: If you change the wrong settings in the service menu (by accident), press the on/off button to turn off the radio. The settings will not be saved until you press the [MENU/SETUP] button. - Turn off the FT-991 and connect the dummy to the HF antenna port; - Press and hold [A/B]+[FAST]; - turn on the FT-991 while pressing three buttons, - the FT-991 is now in use, - beware not to change anything except listed here. - Turn the [MULTI] knob clockwise until option 18-02 (AM carrier level) is selected; - Make (backup) a note of the original value in your owners manual; - Change the frequency to 14,200 MHz by turning the main dial; - Press the PTT button on the microphone without speaking into the microphone; - Attention to S-meter reading, the original setting should be approximately S-7; - Release the PTT button. - The bearing level of menu item 18-02 can be changed by [CLAR/VFO-B], - Press the PTT button and speak into the microphone; - Listen to the emitted audio signal on the receiver; - It is likely that the sound sounds wrong (distorted / overmodulated); - Whistle into the microphone (for maximum modulation) and lower the level of the AM carrier by turning [CLAR/VFO-B] counterclockwise until the S-meter shows nothing (S-0); - Speak into the microphone, the sound signal should sound good / clear; - The PTT button can now be released; - indicate a new value note in the operating instructions for recording, - Press [MENU/SETUP] to save the new service menu values and restart ft-991; - My advice is to note that in the operating instructions as a radio log. Finally, vaesu's service manager is informed of the above findings. Hopefully this will contribute to better products and happier radio operators. I really like the FT-991 and it's great radio! Hopefully the AM carrier incident won't hurt Yaesu too much because the FT-991 is a great product. If you have an FT-991, my advice is to check (and change) am carrier level as described above. If you bought an FT-991 and want one, don't be scared, just buy one and have fun with it! Cobus-Jan - PE2CJ No USB to serial converter needed, so additional interface boxes - only USB cable (* Note, see below in the post about which cable you want to buy. Not all cables are made the same!) UPDATED 6/9/2020 - There is an error in WSJT-X V.2.2.0. When you try to connect 991 you will see a hamlib error when you try to make a CAT connection. Version 2.2.1 appears to have resolved the problem. If you are using V2.2.0 with 991 upgrade to V2.2.1. Ok, some of you might be new digital communications to ham bands, so let me start from the beginning. Hams running PSK31 or JT65 or FT8/4 or other digital mode use a computer connected to the radio. The software on your computer generates sound that passes from your computer's sound card to the radio, as well as from the radio to the sound card. COMPUTER &It;->INTERFACE &It;->RADIO There are several different types of devices. Buxcom, West Mountain Radio, Signalink, and even MFJ are getting into the market with their own audio devices. I tried Buxcom, West Mountain Radio (M8, yes., a while ago!) as well as on Signalink. However! This post is about setting up digital communication with ft-991/991a, only with USB cable. No external device required. Yes, guys, it's true. CAT control as well as PTT via one USB cable from computer to radio. Sweet! No USB to serial converter needed, so additional interface boxes - just a USB cable (* Note, see below in the post about which cable you want to buy. Not all cables are made the same!) The FT-991 is equipped with a built-in sound card. Some say it's the same sound card that's in the Yaesu SCU-17, Yaesu equivalent of

signalink. However, the FT-991 also fsk rtty, as well as cw, (with its built-in sound card), something Signalink can not do. Thus, the FT-991 has a built-in sound card. Pure Jay.. Should I just plug in the USB cable and go? Not quite a cowboy, you have to take a minute (or in my case about 40) and do some research, find the right directions online and then follow them to make sure everything is the right setting. Ft-991 packs TONS of features, and it can be confusing. Inches blog post, I did research for you, and once you get all the software loaded, the correct fields selected and menu items changed it works! So lets dive in here and get to it. SET UP for FT-991 using an internal sound card (These instructions are based on win 7 OS. I was told that in Win 8 and W10, you do not need to install drivers before connecting the radio. To be safe, always install a driver before connecting the radio to your computer.) Step 1. Read this post from start to finish step 2. Read it again in Step 3. Follow the steps below to do so in step 4 order. If something isn't working, go back to step 1 A. Don't connect the USB cable from your computer to the FT-991 until you load the drivers listed below. (See my comments above). B. Go to the Yaesu website and download the drivers for ft-991. The drivers you are looking for are: FT-991/ SCU-17 USB Driver (Virtual COM Port Driver) (3.74 MB). Some users may have a USB to serial converter based on chips (Prolific, FTDI). These drivers will not work with 991/991a. You must download and install Yaesu drivers. Download the USB FT-991/ SCU-17 (Virtual COM Port Driver) driver and follow the installation and you'll be fine.) What happens is that you end up installing: TWO (2) COM ports. One is the ENHANCED COM port (in my case COM 4) the other is the Standard COM port (in my case COM 5) Now that you have installed the drivers, now you can connect the USB cable from your PC to the 991. You may even hear the PC making some system beep sounds because it realizes it has been connected to an external USB device (radio). After you connect 991, you can check if these COM ports have been installed on your computer by going to Control Panel, then device manager, and look under the Ports (COM & amp; LTP) drop-down list. You should see two newly added ports: Silicon Labs Dual CP210x USB on UART Bridge: Enhanced COM Port (COM 4) (& It-OR) SOME OTHER NUMBER) Silicon Labs Dual CP210x USB on UART Bridge: Standard COM Port (COM 5) (&It;-OR SOME OTHER NUMBER) Again, Your new ports can be numbered 3 and 4, or 6 and 7, or some other combination. The key is that there are two of them, one is labeled Advanced, the other standard. Note: These ports do not participate unless you have a USB 991/991a cable connected to your computer. I recommend triplite USB 2.0 Hi-Speed A/B cable with Ferrite dampers (M/M), 3-ft. cable to connect to the radio from the computer. Other cables do not have ferrite or may not have the shielding that you must have in the cable. Many bugs that pop up with crashing software or Hamlib pop-up bugs, or people crashing software when at 40m or high performance 20m are due to cheap USB cables without shielding there. Get a quality cable and do with it. Lack of grounding and RFI issues are quickly presented when using digital modes. If the keyboard starts locking, or the mouse or software starts to act slowly.. check grounding and solve RFI problems. ** NOTE! ** If you have different radios that are assigned and make sure you are using the correct pair of standard and improved ports. Know what you installed. Check it in the system properties! Once the drivers are loaded, it's a matter of getting the digital software you want to install and setting up to talk to the USB port on your laptop. Remember: USB drivers (Win 7) must be installed first. DON'T SKIP IT. If you don't install the driver first, none of this will work. Stop reading. Stop reading and installing the yaesu driver. Here's the link again. Once this happens, then move on to the next step. Yaesu FT-991 MENU SETUP: (If you have 991 (A), your menu numbers will be slightly disabled, just go by the name of the menu) This before attempting to configure WSJT-X or any other software on your computer. These are the MENU settings I changed from the default values. 031 CAT RATE 4800 (or faster - just make sure the software and radio match the same CAT RATE many use the fastest 38XXX vale. I use 4800 and it works well.) 032 CAT TOT 100ms 033 CAT ENABLE 062 DATA MODE OTHER (NOT PSK) 064 OTHER DISP (SSB) = 1500 Hz 065 OTHER OFFSET (SSB) = 1500 Hz 066 DATA LCUT FRED = OFF 068 DATA HCUT FREO = OFF 070 DATA IN SELECT = REAR 071 DATA PTT SELECT = RTS 072 DATA PORT SELECT = USB Yaesu FT-991 Display Settings: These are the settings on the main screen ft-991 that I modified. MODE: DATA-USB (NOT USB), select the DATA-USB setting. WIDTH: 2400 or 3000 METER: ALC (I use an external meter to monitor RF power supply) RF PWR: 8-50w start low and work up. WIDTH: 3000 NAR/WIDE: W 3000 DT Profit: 6 *** IMPORTANT *** DT Profit Default 50! This will be an overdrive kit modulator that will cause unwanted audio harmonics. that's not good. Turn the DT Gain setting to about 4, and start working your way back up, tracking the ALC to the meter as well as the power supply you want. As you move the DT Gain setting back up (higher), you will see an increase in performance levels as well as ALC levels. Find a happy medium NO ALC points to the meter. Excessive ALC indication is a sign that the sound unit is too high and distortion is most likely happening. WSJT-X With all the software updates, it is best to just get the latest version when it is available. Running versions will lack features and in some cases does not allow you to work on stations running new software. So update the software when new versions are out. You can get it here: download it and install the software, you need to configure it to talk to the radio. CONNECT THE USB CABLE FROM YOUR COMPUTER TO FT-991 NOW. Start wsjt-x. Here are some older screenshots. They are for reference use only. The latest version of the software will have additional selections, but the layout is similar. Then click on [FILE] and then [SETTINGS]. Here's where you need to choose the right options to connect the FT-991 to your computer. Here's an older screenshot of what works for my settings. COM Port #4, ENHANCED PORT (on my computer - maybe different to you) from drivers. 4800 baud (or faster if you wish) 8 data bits 2 feet Hardware: Handshake Poll interval 1 second CAT control: via COM 4 Mode: NONE Split: FAKE IT or RIG (YES, I know ... I have none selected in the image above) select FAKE IT or RIG. It is very important that you choose Fake It or Rig when using newer versions of FT8 due to advances in software and the way the software works. Click Test CAT. This should be changed to GREEN. Click PTT Test. This should turn RED and you should see the switch into TX mode, (no RF out). Apparently all you have to do for Windows 10 is the same as me for Win 7/8. After you have done this, click [RADIO]. Set the settings for entering and exiting the WSJT-X sound card on the USB Audio CODEC. You don't select your default sound card or microphone or any other software that you have there. As a selection you want a USB AUDIO CODEC. This new audio option should automatically fill in the drop-down list for the input and output option, now that you have connected the radio to your computer. You did it before you got to this point yes? Note You may see a USB audio codec -7 or -8. (Or some other possible number) That's okay, too. Just select the USB AUDIO CODEC. Set the TX level (on the right side of the software) to the beginning of the scale. Set the DT GAIN setting to FT-991 so that the ALC is not observed (or barely observed) on the sword on FT-991 radio. Pay attention to your ALC settings. This is done by tracking the ALC screen (switching from PO or SWR to ALC). 2/9/2017 - The right USB cable to use Recently on yahoo group 991 there have been many discussions around the correct USB cable for use with 991/991A. RF floating around and poorly made cables made some connections intermittent and or drivers would load. The recommendation is to use Tripp Lite Model U023-006 USB 2.0 Gold X Cable A (Male) – 6 ft s pressed dampers. Amazon Prime cable at \$6.51 delivered. I wound up using a USB cable with inline dampers that I found on Amazon. High-speed A/B cable with ferrites (m/M) 6 feet (U023-006). This solved my RF problem. - Jon AA4JS Following on from Don, K0APK. He completely got rid of my RF-induced problems. I liked it so much that I bought 5 more and replaced all my USB A/B cables throughout the house! No more lock-up programs, resets, and dropping my wireless connections when I key the transmitter! -Don-K0APK By Gary, WW80 – This is the setting for USB cable and Singalink. You are not using an internal sound card in 991, but rather an external Signalink device. He has this job on both wsit-x and fldigi. 991 (or /a) Menu settings: 31 38400 60 rts 62 others 63 1500 64 790 65 1500 67 6db 68 4000 69 6 db 70 rear 71 rts 1 72 data 73 20 108 rear 110 rts 111 usb Additional instructions can be found here: * NOTE 991A but should be similar to 991 * I was asked to share all settings, which I came to a successful FT-991a with Fldigi and RigCat traffic. FT-991a (all other settings are default) Menu Number Set function Notes 031 CAT Rate 38400 Must match fldigi CAT rate 032 CAT TOT 100 ms 036 TX TOT 3 min 059 CW Freg Display DIRECT FREO 062 Data Mode OTHER 064 Other Disp (SSB) 1500 065 Other Shift (SSB) 1500 065 Other Shift (SSB) 1500 066 Data LCUT Freg OFF 071 Data POT Select USB 108 SSB PTT Select RTS 109 SSB Port Select USB 142 VOX Select DATA Must Also Turn VOX ON (M-LIST) Observe D.V indicatorOX is on (top corner of display) M-LIST FLDIGI Settings (Configuration > Rig Control): VOX=ON FT-991.xml File Loaded NOTCH=OFF Device=COM3 (Extended Port) WIDTH=3000 Baud=38400, Stop=1, RTS/CTS Flow Control RF PWR=50 DT GAIN=5 I hope this saves you some brain cells! Mark, WA0ZIG GitHub repository of great articles on the 991st FT-991 setup for VHF Winlink, (pdf) (pdf) Dan, W9SAU has created a instructions for using the FT-991 for Winlink on the VHF. FT-991 Settings from W6POL (pdf) JT65 to FT991 YouTube tutorial shawn johnson, KU0D - Video tutorial, (Thanks for mentioning Shawn!) FT991 Blogspot page Getting 991 up and running with FLDIGI. FT991/CAT: FT991/991A with N1MM. HRD Support has a great set of startup directions as well as some good nuggets of information deep in the comments. DXEngineering: FSK Checks: My Compiled List: If you get really bored, here are a few more readings for you. This was a copy and paste of various FT-991 menu settings from around the world, from translated Japanese blogs. This is where I finally found the settings that worked for me. I don't remember links to the site to take credit for. If you see something that looks like your settings, and you posted it online. Chances are they're yours! Thank you for adding to the team, Again, I don't test all of them, just what I have above doesn't work for you, it could save you some internet search for what others use to set up for FT-991 and JT65. Jay's list scoured the internet for FT 991 settings. Of course, if none of this works for you, or you don't want to use an internal sound card, just plug in signalink and use this device with the FT-991 for digital communication, but why get one if you don't need it? This money could be put on the FH-2 remote wired keyboard for the FT-991 (another great product). Ok! What about now? Well, now that you have the radio configured, the software works, and the radio speaks to your computer - download this file created by Gary, It's great to read about how to run WSJT-X software. hope to hear your FT-991 on the band soon! GL OM/YL! OM/YL!

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