This equipment generates and uses radio frequency energy and if not installed and used properly, that is, in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, may cause interference to radio and television reception. It has been type tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B computing device in accordance with the specifications in Subpart J of Part 15 of FCC Rules, which are designed to provide reasonable protection against such interference in a residential installation. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

1. Reorient the computer with respect to the receiver
2. Move the computer away from the receiver
3. Plug the computer into a different outlet so that computer and receiver are on different circuits.

If necessary, the user should consult the dealer or an experienced radio/television technician for additional suggestions. The user may find the following booklet helpful: "How to Identify and Resolve Radio TV Interference Problems". This booklet is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, Stock No. 004-000-00345-4.

Warning - When connecting this device to your Computer, shielded interface cables must be used.
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### BIBLIOGRAPHY
INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing the MFJ TNC 2 Packet Radio. The MFJ TNC 2 is a clone of the TAPR TNC 2 plus some added features. A TTL serial port is added making interfacing with computers which needed TTL level signals easily. A 28-segment tuning indicator is built-in to ease tuning in HF operation (for MFJ-1274 only). The built-in HF modem makes it possible to operate HF or VHF modes by simply selecting the mode via the HF/VHF switch. The MFJ TNC 2 uses the TAPR TNC 2 software AX.25 Level 2 Version 2.6. Any future software update from TAPR will be available from MFJ Enterprises, inc.

The MFJ TNC 2 package contains the following items:
1. MFJ TNC 2.
2. AC adaptor.
5. TTL port 0-pin connector.

The purpose of the MFJ TNC 2 Terminal Node Controller (TNC) is to act as an interface between your ordinary radio, such as a 2-meter FM transceiver or HF SSB transceiver, and your computer. The TNC will perform all the "magic" of establishing error-free communications between your station and another packet radio equipped station. You will be able to have a "private channel" while sharing a frequency with other packet stations. "Send the mail" of other QSOs, operate remote computer "bulletin board" or "mailbox" stations, handle message traffic -- in short, be able to enjoy all the advantages of digital communication techniques in your ham shack.

Your MFJ TNC 2 is the key to your packet station. It is based on the original TAPR TNC and inherits many of the advanced features of that design, coupled with the experience gained by thousands of TAPR-equipped Amateur Packet Radio users worldwide.

This manual will be your guide into the realm of Amateur packet radio. Chapter 2 explains how to connect your TNC to your station computer. Chapter 3 will instruct you on in interfacing the TNC to your radio and Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 will guide you through the use of packet radio operation. Chapter 6 is a detailed breakdown of the various commands the TNC will accept and messages it may report. A description of the hardware design of TNC 2 and troubleshooting hints follow in Chapters 7 and 8. The manual concludes with Chapter 9, and overview of packet radio protocol. The bibliography lists sources of further information on packet radio.
You are now ready to attach your NFJ TMC 2 to your station computer or terminal. Throughout this manual we will use the term "computer" to refer to the computer or terminal you use to communicate with your TMC.

TMC 2 communicates with your computer through a serial port using signals corresponding to a standard called RS-232C. Why an RS-232C interface? Nearly every computer in production today either incorporates an RS-232C style serial port as a standard feature, or has one available as an optional accessory, either from the computer manufacturer or from a manufacturer of computer accessories.

In addition to the RS-232C port, the NFJ TMC 2 has a built-in TTL port to allow interfacing with computers which need TTL signals such as the Commodore 64, 128 or the VIC-20.

In order to use the TMC with your computer, the computer must have an RS-232C serial port, or a TTL serial port and a program to support the serial port. The program will typically be called a modem, terminal emulation, or communications program.

Since there are so many computers on the market today, it is impractical for this chapter to provide detailed instructions for each computer. Detailed information is given for some of the popular models available in the United States. Also provided is general computer interfacing information.

Serial Port Signals

The serial port connector on your TMC is on the rear panel and is marked "SERIAL." There are several signals available at this connector. You won’t need all of them for standard packet operation. For some special applications, such as binary file transfer or some Bulletin Board operations, you may want to use more of them. In that case, see TMC 2 Serial Port Pin Functions at the end of this chapter.

The pins on the serial port connector of the TMC 2 that must be connected are shown in Table 2-1. Note that the TMC 2 connects to a computer exactly as if the TMC were a standard RS-232C modem. If you have successfully used your computer...
with a telephone modem, hook it up to TNC 2 in the same way. Use whatever program you ordinarily use to communicate with the modem and proceed to the section, Verifying Serial Port Operation.

Table 2-1. Serial port signals required by TNC 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pin</th>
<th>Signal Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Transmit Data</td>
<td>Serial data from your computer to the TNC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Receive Data</td>
<td>Serial data from the TNC to your computer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Signal Ground</td>
<td>The common ground for both data lines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If your computer is listed in Table 2-2, refer to the specific information in the following sections to connect your TNC to your computer.

Table 2-2. Computers with specific serial interfacing instructions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>J-5, Pin#</th>
<th>Hexadecimal Name</th>
<th>Pin ID</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apple</td>
<td>Macintosh (tm)</td>
<td>C-64, Vic-28, C-128*, Pin 1-8</td>
<td>RXD</td>
<td>H,C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VIC-20 (tm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>OXD</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commodore 64 (tm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>GND</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-128 (tm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ground (Frame and Signal)</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBM</td>
<td>PCjr (tm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>DTR</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Color Computer (tm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>RXD</td>
<td>C**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Color Computer 2 (tm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>TXD</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Model 180</td>
<td></td>
<td>DATA SET READY</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEC 8281</td>
<td></td>
<td>DTR</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many computers require a serial port adapter card. These cards incorporate the circuitry necessary to add a RS-232C port to the computer. Some popular models in this category are the Apple II series, the IBM Personal Computer, many Radio Shack computers, and the Sanyo NEC-55X series. If you have one of these computers with an "add-in" serial port, or if you have another computer we haven’t mentioned, you should skip to one of the sections on “other computers.” If you computer has a 25-pin RS-232C serial port, refer to the section Other Computers with 25-pin RS-232C Ports. Otherwise refer to the section Other Computers with Nonstandard Serial Ports.

Some computers have no serial port and no adapter is commercially available. Such computers are not suitable for use with TNC 2.

Chapter 2 Page 2

Commodore 64, C-128 and Vic-20

The MFJ TNC 2 has a built-in TTL-level port for interfacing with the Commodore 64, Vic-20 and the C-128 computers. You do not need a RS-232C converter to interface with the MFJ TNC 2. The pin connections for the TTL port (J5) are numbered from left to right as you look at the back of the TNC. They are identified as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pin</th>
<th>Hexadecimal Name</th>
<th>Pin ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>RXD</td>
<td>H,C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>OXD</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>GND</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DTR</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>TXD</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>DATA SET READY</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>CTS</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*C-128 is used in the C-64 mode for these connections.

**Pin E is not needed when using terminal program referring to page 2-7 of this chapter.

All of these connectors are not necessarily used by your terminal. The MFJ TNC 2 only needs RXD, TXD and GND connections. Programs which utilize file transfer and printer routines will probably use DTR and CTS as well. Consult your software documentation.

An optional Starter Pack for the C-64, Vic-20 and C-128 can be purchased from MFJ Enterprises, Inc. Starter Pack includes interface cable from the TNC 2's TTL port to the user I/O port on the computer. A terminal program is also included. To order, specify MFJ-1282 for software on disk or MFJ-1283 for software on tape.
Apple Macintosh

The Macintosh serial port is an RS-232 compatible port, but it will work fine with the RS-232C serial port on your TMC. You will need a cable wired as shown in Fig. 2-1.

Macintosh (DB9P) TMC 2 (DB-25P)

1 ================ 1
5 ================ 2
9 ================ 3
3 ================ 7
7 ================ 8
6 ================ 20

Fig. 2-1. Serial port wiring for Apple Macintosh.

Note that pin 1 is not connected inside the Macintosh or the TMC. If you use a shielded serial cable, which we recommend, connect both pin 1s to the shield and connect pin 1 of the TMC 2 serial connector to digital ground on the TMC circuit board. A printed circuit board pad is provided for this purpose near pin 1 of the serial connector.

IBM PCjr

The PCjr uses standard RS-232C voltage levels for its serial interface; however, the connector used is non-standard and not readily available from electronic supply dealers. Pin-out information for this connector is given in the IBM PCjr Technical Reference Manual.

IBM dealers sell the "IBM PCjr Adapter Cable for Serial Devices" for converting the connector on PCjs to a standard RS-232C terminal connector. This cable attaches directly between the TMC and the PCjr. It is only about 3 inches long, however, so you may want to obtain a male-to-female RS-232C extension cable, which should be readily available.

Radio Shack Color Computer

The Color Computer series (except for the Micro Color Computer) uses a 4-pin DIN-style connector for its serial interface. Wire a cable as shown in Fig. 2-2 to interface your TMC to a Color Computer. All necessary parts should be available from Radio Shack dealers.

Chapter 2 Page 5

Color Computer DB-25P

4 ================ 2
3 ================ 3
7 ================ 7

Fig. 2-2. Serial port wiring for Radio Shack Color Computers.

Radio Shack Model 150 and MGC 8181

These computers have built-in standard RS-232C serial ports that are compatible with the TMC. You will need a standard male-to-male RS-232C extension cable to connect the computer to the TMC.

Other Computers with 25-pin RS-232C Ports

If your computer has a 25-pin RS-232C port, you should consult your computer manual or accessory manual to see which pins it uses to send and receive data on, as well as which pin is used for signal common. Follow the computer manufacturer's recommendations for connecting the serial port to a modem. You may also find the technical information in this section useful.

Your TMC is configured as Data Communications Equipment (DCE), the technical term for an RS-232C module. Host computers are configured as Data Terminal Equipment (DTE). If this is the case for your computer, you will probably be able to simply wire pin 2 of the TMC connector to pin 2 of your computer's RS-232C port, pin 3 to pin 3 and pin 7 to pin 7. You can provide these connections with a standard 25-pin male-to-female or male-to-male RS-232C extension cable, depending on whether your computer has a DB25S or DB25P connector.

If your computer is configured as DCE, you will have to wire pin 2 of your TMC to pin 2 of the computer connector, pin 3 of the computer connector to pin 3 of your TMC, pin 7 of the computer connector to pin 7 of your TMC serial port.

Some computers may require that pin 5 of the computer serial port connector be connected to an appropriate signal. Others may require connections for pin 6 and pin 25. You can use the computer's output signals on pins 4 and 6 as shown in Fig. 2-3.
Other Computers with Nonstandard Serial Ports

Computers with nonstandard serial ports must meet the following conditions.

First, the signal levels should be RS-232C compatible. The TNC requires that the voltage levels sent from the computer be greater than about +3 volts in one state and less than about +1 volt in the other state.

Second, the polarity of the signals must conform to the RS-232C standard. This means that the low voltage state must correspond to a logical "1" and the high voltage state to a logical "0".

Third, the computer must be able to correctly receive a signal which meets the RS-232C specification. The TNC supplies signals that meet this specification.

Make or buy a cable that provides the following connections. The computer serial port common pin must be tied to the TNC serial port connector pin 7. The data line that sends data from the computer must be tied to the TNC connector pin 2. The pin on which your computer receives data must be tied to the TNC connector pin 3.

If your computer requires any other signals, you must arrange to provide them. The documentation provided with your computer or its accessory serial port should clarify any special requirements of your port.

Software Requirements

Any software package that enables your computer to act as an ASCII terminal with an ordinary telephone modem should work with your TNC. If you have a program that you have used successfully with a telephone modem and that you are familiar with, use that program to communicate with your TNC.

Note: Some terminal programs (such as the Apple 11+ Super Serial Card) requires CDB to be asserted before they receive any characters. If this is the case, place a jumper across JRP 1. The CDB LED on the front panel will function normally indicating received packets.

Apple Macintosh

Apple dealers sell a program called MacTerm for the Macintosh that works with the TNC. Load this program and set the options according to Table 2-3. In addition, set the TNC for 1200 baud as described in Verifying Serial Port Operation.

Table 2-3. MacTerm option settings for operation with TNC 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compatibility</th>
<th>Terminal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1200 baud</td>
<td>V1190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 bits/character</td>
<td>AE0I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>even parity</td>
<td>UNDERLINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handshake Xon/Xoff</td>
<td>USK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>modem connection</td>
<td>SS Columns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;telephone&quot; port</td>
<td>ON LISE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AUTHORSPEAK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commodore 64 or VIC-20

A BASIC communications program is given in the Programmer’s Reference Guide published by Commodore. Use the program listing for “true ASCII,” as these computers use a modified ASCII format internally. You will probably want to run your TNC at 300 baud on the serial port with these computers. Setting the TNC serial port baud rate is discussed in the next section, Verifying Serial Port Operation. NOTE: When using the above program, you must first use the "GOBIDOORES" key to shift to lower case before using this program. Also line 299 should read “for J=0 to 64:7*(J-1)+NEXT”.

When making the connecting cable from the L port of the TNC to the I/O port of the Commodore computer you may use the wiring information given on page 2-3 in this chapter. However, do not use pin 8 connection for this program.

IBM PCjr

The IBM PCjr has a built-in terminal program in the BASIC cartridge. Start this program by typing TERN. Refer to your PCjr BASIC manual for details on this program. For best results with PCjr, do not run the TNC serial port faster than 1200 baud. Setting the TNC serial port baud rate is discussed in the next section, Verifying Serial Port Operation.
Radio Shack Color Computer

There are several terminal programs available for the Color Computer. You will probably want to use a commercial program (rather than writing your own) since the Color Computer has a "software UART" that is difficult to program in BASIC.

Radio Shack Model 108 and NEC 1281

These computers have built-in terminal programs in ROM. Consult your computer's documentation for instructions in their use.

Verifying Serial Port Operation

Turn off the power to your computer and to your THC. Connect the computer and THC with a properly configured serial cable. Set the DIP switch on the rear panel of the THC to the desired baud rate as shown in Table 2-4. The power must be OFF when these switches are set.

Notes: The serial port baud rate used between the THC and the computer has no relationship to the baud rate used over the radio. The serial port baud rate you set on your THC must match the baud rate used by your computer's serial port. See Table 5-2, Chapter 5 page 16 for Radio Baud Rate Table.

Table 2-4. DIP switch settings for computer serial port baud rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baud Rate</th>
<th>Switch 1</th>
<th>Switch 2</th>
<th>Switch 3</th>
<th>Switch 4</th>
<th>Switch 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>ON</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>OFF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>ON</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>OFF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2400</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>ON</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>OFF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4800</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>ON</td>
<td>OFF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9600</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>ON</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAUTION: Only one of these switches may be ON at any time.

Turn on your computer and start the terminal program. Follow the directions for the program you are using to match the computer's baud rate with that selected on the THC, and then reset other options. Set your computer's port options to 7 bits even parity and select either 1 or 2 stop bits.

Chapter 2 Page 8

Turn on your THC. You should see a sign-on message, which should be a readable text message, printed on your computer screen. This demonstrates the ability of your computer to accept data from your THC. If you see nothing, switch off your THC for a few seconds, then on again. If you still see nothing, verify your wiring and restart your terminal program. If you see gibberish on your screen you should verify that you have set the same baud rate for the THC and the computer.

When you have successfully read the sign-on message from your THC, type DISPLAY

followed by a carriage return. You should see a lengthy list of items on your screen. This verifies the ability of your THC to accept and respond to input from your computer.

Your serial interface is now working. If you are completing construction of your THC, return to the assembly manual and continue from where you were directed in this manual.

TMC 2 Serial Port Pin Functions

This section describes the pins used on the THC's RS-232C serial port connector. It is intended for packet operators with special applications requiring hardware handshaking. This information should not be needed by most users.

Table 2-5. RS-232C Pin Designations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pin</th>
<th>Mnemonic</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>FG</td>
<td>Frame Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>XRD</td>
<td>Transmit Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>RXD</td>
<td>Receive Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CTS</td>
<td>Clear To Send</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>DSR</td>
<td>Data Set Ready</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>DG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>DG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>DCD</td>
<td>Data Carrier Detect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>DG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>DSO</td>
<td>+12V unregulated reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>DTR</td>
<td>-12V unregulated reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>DTR</td>
<td>Data Terminal Ready</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Frame Ground is provided for attachment to the chassis of the THC and the chassis of the attached device (computer or terminal). This pin is brought out to a feedthrough on the THC 2 PC board near pin 1 of the serial connector. It is not electrically connected anywhere else on the THC circuit.
board.

Transmit Data is an input line to the TNC on which the attached device sends data.

Receive Data is an output line from the TNC on which the attached device receives data.

Clear To Send is an output from the TNC signaling the attached device to send or refrain from sending data to the TNC. This line is used for hardware flow control.

Data Set Ready is an output from the TNC telling the attached device that the TNC is operational.

Signal Ground is the common, or return, path for all signals between the TNC and the attached device.

Data Carrier Detect is an output from the TNC. As normally configured, DCD reflects the status of the COM LED. It is true when an AX.25 connection exists between your TNC and another station; it is false when no connection exists. This configuration is useful when the TNC is used with a telephone style Bulletin Board System, since the AX.25 connection, analogous to a modem signal on the telephone, indicates the presence of a user. Shorting DCM on the TNC 2 PC board will cause this output to always be true.

Pin 9 and 10 provide access to the TNC's unregulated +12 volt supplies for use by an external device. These are not intended to power an accessory, and should not be used to source or sink more than a couple of milliamps.

Data Terminal Ready is an input to the TNC signaling that the attached device is ready to accept data from the TNC. This line is used for hardware flow control.

Computer interfacing, covered in the previous chapter, is only half the interfacing task. The other half is connecting your TNC to a radio.

Interfacing the TNC to your radio involves connecting the following signals at J2. The pinout of J2 is shown in Fig. 3-1.

Pin 1 Microphone audio, from the TNC to your transmitter.
Pin 2 Ground, audio and PTT common.
Pin 3 PTT-to-talk, to allow the TNC to key your transmitter.
Pin 4 Receive audio, from your receiver to the TNC.
Pin 5 Squelch Input (optional) to allow the TNC to detect activity on a shared-mode channel.

Fig. 3-1 J2 radio port connector Fig. 3-1a 5-pin male DIN cable

A 5-pin male DIN connector cable is provided with the MFJ TNC 2. CHECK THIS CABLE WITH AN OHM METER BEFORE USING IT. COLOR OF THE WIRE MAY VARY FROM THE ONE SHOWN IN FIG. 3-1.

This chapter describes how to connect those signals between your TNC and your radio and how to adjust the receive and transmit audio levels appropriately. The interconnection should be planned so as to minimize pickup of stray audio and RF noise by the lines. If possible, you should set up your packet station with a monitor speaker and be able to operate on voice without disconnecting the TNC. A monitor speaker can be connected to P2 on the MFJ TNC 2.
This chapter assumes that you are using an FM radio. If you are operating on another mode, such as SSB, most of the information is still applicable.

**NOTE:** Some HTs, such as the Icom IC-2AT, key the transmitter by completing the ground connection on the microphone. One way to interface to this combination is to use an audio transformer with a low turns ratio. See Fig. 3-2A.

Another method to interface with this type of HT is to install JMP K on the TNC board. This will eliminate the need for the transformer. Be sure to remove JMP K when connecting the TNC to another radio.

![Fig. 3-2A HT Interface to TNC with Transformer](image)

Two interfacing methods are presented. You will have to use the second method if you can't adjust the audio levels properly with the first method. They require no special test equipment for adjusting the audio levels. If FM test equipment is available, however, it should be used as described. You will need a second receiver in your shack that you can use to listen to your own signal. Read the remainder of this chapter carefully before starting to interface your TNC to your radio.

**Method 1: Direct Connection to Microphone and Speaker**

TNC 2 was designed to allow hookup and initial testing to be done without any modifications to the radio or any signal level balancing devices in the cables.

![Fig. 3-2. Method One Interconnect](image)

For Method 1, shown in Fig. 3-2, the TNC's audio will be fed directly into the microphone connector or similarly connected auxiliary jack, and the output of the TNC will be adjusted to give a proper modulation level. The receiver audio will be taken from an earphone plug or speaker jack and fed directly to the TNC. A monitor speaker can be connected to P2 of the TNC. This allows you to monitor the channel or conveniently use the rig on voice.

This connection may also be susceptible to RFI from nearby amateur and commercial transmitters. For these reasons you may want to use the second interface method for your permanent station interface, after the initial testing phase.

Connect your TNC and radio as shown in Fig. 3-2. Turn on your TNC and computer and start your terminal program. Connect the radio to a dummy load and listen to the transmission with another nearby radio.

The transmit audio level is pre-set at the factory to be compatible with the mic input of most radios. However, if the transmit audio is too low or distorted, re-calibration may be needed. Use the following procedure to calibrate:

**TRANSMIT AUDIO LEVEL ADJUSTMENT (1)**

1. Enter the modem calibration procedure by typing `CALIBRA` and a carriage return. Press the K key on your keyboard to key the transmitter, then tap the space bar until the higher of the two tones is heard. Pressing the K key again will un-key the transmitter. After the transmitter has been keyed for a few seconds, it will be shut off automatically by the transmit watch-dog circuit. As you perform the adjustments below, you will have to periodically un-key then re-key the transmitter by typing the K key. If you wish to defeat the watch-dog timer, place JMP4.

2. With the TNC keying the transmitter and transmitting the higher of the two tones, adjust the transmit audio level as follows. With a small screwdriver, adjust trimpot R76 while you listen to the monitoring receiver. Turn the adjustment screw on R76 clockwise (CW) until no increase in output level is heard at the monitoring receiver.

3. Rotate the adjustment screw of R76 counterclockwise until the audio signal on the monitoring receiver is slightly, but noticeably, reduced from the maximum level.
4. Press the K key to return to receive mode and type Q to exit the calibration routine. Be sure to remove J664 if you placed it to defeat the watch-dog timer. You have now set your transmitter deviation to approximately the correct level.

5. With your radio in the receive mode, open the squelch control so that a steady hiss would be heard on a speaker. Set the volume control so the DCD LED on your TNC flickers occasionally with no received signal. These are approximately the proper level for best receive performance from your TNC's modem.

If you notice a significant hum level in the monitored audio in Step 3, take measures to remove it. This may require shielded wire (recommended in any event) in your microphone audio circuit. If your transmitter has an adjustable microphone-gain control, try reducing the sensitivity of the transmitter microphone circuit and increasing the signal level from your TNC to minimize hum or other noise problems.

Method 2: Accessory Jack or Interface Box Connection

If your radio has an accessory jack with PTT, transmit audio, and receive audio signals, the interface can be done through this jack with the addition of only a single resistor inside the radio (shown in Fig. 3-3).

Regardless of whether you use an accessory jack or an external interface box, you should use shielded wire for all signal-carrying leads. The connector types and pinouts will be determined by the connector jacks on your radio.

An interface box similar to the one shown in Fig. 3-4 is available from MFJ Enterprises, Inc. Model No. is MFJ-1272. Price of the MFJ-1272 is $29.95.

Fig. 3-3. Accessory Jack Interface.

Fig. 3-4. External Interface Box.
If you built the external interface box as in Fig. 3-4, then follow this procedure to adjust R(s).

1. Remove the shunt attenuator element, R57 in the microphone audio section of our TNC.
2. Temporarily solder a variable resistor in place of R(s) in Fig. 3-5 or Fig. 3-3. The maximum value of this resistor must be determined by experiment, but 500Ω should handle most cases.
3. Connect your TNC to the radio. Connect the microphone to the radio, or to the interface box if one is being used. Connect the radio to a dummy load and listen to the transmission with another nearby radio. Adjust R(s) for proper modulation.

The transmit audio level on the TNC 2 is pre-set at the factory to be compatible with the mic input of most radios. However, if the transmit audio is too low or distorted, recalibration may be needed. Use the following procedure:

TRANSMIT AUDIO LEVEL ADJUSTMENT (II)

1. Turn on your TNC and computer and start your terminal program. Enter the modem calibration procedure by typing CALIBRA.

Press the K key to key the transmitter, then tap the space bar until the higher of the two tones is heard. Pressing the K key again will unkey the transmitter. After the transmitter has been keyed for a few seconds, it will be shut off automatically by the transmit watch-dog circuit. As you perform the adjustments below, you will have to periodically unkey then re-key the transmitter by typing the K key. If you wish to defeat the watch-dog timer, place JMP4.

2. With the TNC keying the transmitter and transmitting the higher of the two tones, adjust the transmit audio level as follows. With a small screwdriver, adjust trimpot R76 and set the output of your TNC to about 70% of its maximum undistorted value as observed on an oscilloscope monitoring the transmit audio at JNP7. This level may be estimated without an oscilloscope by turning R76 clockwise to maximum (indicated by a clicking sound inside the trimmer) and then backing off 15 turns. At this point the signal amplitude at JNP7 should be about 2.5 volts peak-to-peak.

3. Adjust the variable resistor installed in step 2 for proper modulation level (typically between 3.0 and 4.5 kHz deviation for Amateur PM). If PM test equipment is not available, adjust R(s) as described in steps 2 and 3 of Method 1 above, using R(s) instead of R76.

4. Press the K key to return to receive mode and type Q to exit the calibration routine. You have now set your transmitter deviation to approximately the correct level. Remove JMP4 if you placed it in Step 4.

5. Carefully remove the variable resistor and measure its value. This is the proper value of R(s) for your particular radio.

6. Select the nearest standard value fixed resistor (1/4 watt is fine) and permanently install this resistor as R(s) in the interface circuit.

7. If you have access to PM test equipment, check to see that the modulation level is still within the limits of 3 to 4.5 kHz deviation. If it is not, make a final adjustment with the TNC transmit audio level control, R76.

8. Open the squelch control on your radio so that a steady hiss is heard. Set the volume control so the VU meter on your TNC flickers occasionally. This is approximately the proper level for best receive performance from your TNC's modem.

NOTE: If you experienced harmonic distortion to your radio from the TNC 2, adjust capacitor trimmer (C47, next to the crystal). Turn it cc or cww until the interference disappears.
This chapter will guide you through the basics of packet radio operation with TMC 2. Packet radio has a great deal of power and flexibility, and this chapter only scratches the surface of your packet station's capabilities. However, it contains the basic information required to get you on the air with packet radio to begin exploring this new mode.

First Steps

The serial port baud rate switches on the back of the TMC should be set to the same baud rate as your computer. These settings are described in Chapter 2, Computer Interfacing. Set the following switches, with the TMC OFF (be sure only one of these switches is ON when the TMC is powered up):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Switch</th>
<th>Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>OFF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>ON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>OFF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This sets a radio baud rate of 1200 baud. The radio baud rate is NOT related to the computer baud rate.

Turn on your TMC. You should see something like the following display:

```
A
```

Note: The "A" may display as a vertical bar and any capital letter from "A" through "J".

The first five lines are the sign-on message, which you will normally see only when you power up the TMC. The Com-

Chapter 4 Page 1
mand. Mode prompt cmd will appear when the TNC is in Command Mode and is ready to accept your instructions.

You may see some anomalies in the appearance of the display, which will be corrected as you proceed through the next section. The sign-on message may appear double-spaced, or characters you type may be displayed twice. You may even see incorrectly displayed characters.

Entering Commands

In the examples in this chapter, text that you are supposed to type will appear in boldface. Text typed by the TNC will appear in normal type:

**cmd:** **RESET**

This means that you are supposed to type the text, "RESET", following the Command Mode prompt which the TNC typed, and the line with a carriage return. All command entries will end with a carriage return, abbreviated `<CR>`. The `<CR>` at the end of a command normally won't be mentioned.

You should see the TNC's response to the **RESET** command:

```
BBRCH loaded with defaults
HPU ENTERPRISES, INC.
MODEL xxxx, TNC 2 PACKET RADIO
Ax.25 Level 2 Version 2.8
Release x.x.x - date
Checksum SCF
cmd:
```

The TNC has loaded all user-settable parameters normally stored in the battery-backed-up RAM (bbRAM). All parameters are now set to their default values. The TNC has also re-initialized itself exactly as it would upon power-up, and typed a sign-on message. You probably won't use this command often. The TNC will automatically reload the bbram at power up if it finds that the data is bad.

If you make mistakes while entering commands to the TNC, you can make corrections. To erase the last character you typed, enter a `<BACKSPACE>` character. The TNC will throw away the last character you typed (unless you are at the beginning of a line) and try to erase the character from your screen. Input editing will be discussed in more detail in the section, "Special Input Characters."

You are now ready to start setting up the parameters you will use. You may be satisfied with most of the defaults for now, but a few parameters will have to be changed:

**cmd:** **MCALL W1AQ8T**

**cmd:** **W1AQ8T**

Type the text, "W1AQ8T", following the command mode prompt. Of course, you should substitute your own call sign for W1AQ8T. Don't forget the `<CR>` at the end of the line. Your call sign will be used by the TNC as its "address." The TNC responds by telling you the previous value of the MCALL parameter, and gives you a new command mode prompt. Now try typing just the command by itself:

**cmd:** **MCALL**

**cmd:** **W1AQ8T**

You can see the current value of most parameters by typing the command that sets the parameter followed by just a `<CR>`. This verifies that the TNC accepted your call sign.

The next section describes the commands you will use to configure the TNC for proper text display for your particular computer. You may not use these commands again unless you change computers or terminal programs. The following sections, "Basic Operation" and "Monitoring Channel Activity," describe the commands you will use for your everyday packet operations. With these commands you will be ready for the section, "Your First Packet QSO." The last section of the chapter, "Special Input Characters," contains information on input editing and other special characters used by the TNC.

If you intend to use your packet station for "advanced" applications, such as a computer Bulletin Board or binary file transfers, you should continue with Chapter 5. Operation 1: Further Details. However, Chapter 4 contains all the information that is needed for most packet operations. For a full description of all commands, refer to the appropriate entry in Chapter 6, TAPR TNC 2 Commands.

Most commands can be abbreviated, and the minimum abbreviations for each command are given in the listings in Chapter 6. For the sake of clarity, only the full command names are used in this chapter.

Serial Port Configuration

This section describes the commands you will use to set up your TNC to work best with your computer.
Parity and Word Length

If messages from your TNC appear garbled, with incorrectly displayed characters, you may need to change the TNC's serial port parity and word length. (We assume that you have set the baud rate correctly. See Chapter 2 if the baud rate needs to be changed.) The most common parity and word length combinations are 7 bits, even parity (the TNC default), and 7 bits, space parity. The TNC default will probably be accepted even if your computer actually uses the latter setting. If your computer receives 8 bits as data, you may have to set space parity, since text may otherwise be interpreted as graphics or other special characters. To set 7 bits, space parity, use the following combinations:

* AMLEN 8 (8-bit words)
* PARITY 2 (no parity bit)

To return to 7 bits, even parity, set

* AMLEN 7 (7-bit words)
* PARITY 3 (even parity)

One of these combinations will satisfy most computers. You are more likely to require a different setting if you have a terminal rather than a computer, or if you have configured your terminal port for some special application.

If your computer requires odd parity, set PARITY 1. If your computer detects framing errors, try setting

* AMLEN 7 (7-bit words)
* PARITY 2 (no parity bit)

for shorter characters. For longer characters, set:

* AMLEN 8 (8-bit words)
* PARITY 1 or PARITY 3

Echoes

You may see two characters on your screen for every character you type, for example:

```
COMMAND
```

Your computer is echoing the characters you type, and the TNC is also echoing them. In this case, set ECHO OFF to stop the TNC's echoes. If you later use your TNC with a different computer, or with a different terminal program, you may see nothing displayed when you type. In that case, set ECHO ON.

New Lines and Line Wrapping

If everything displayed appears to be double-spaced, your computer is adding an extra linefeed (\(\text{\textless CR}\)) whenever it displays a carriage return (\(\text{\textless CR}\)). Set AUTOFL OFF to keep the TNC from also adding an \(\text{\textless LF}\). If you change equipment you may have to set AUTOFL ON to restore the TNC's automatic linefeeds.

The screen-width parameter is set by default to 80, the width of many CRT displays. The TNC will send an extra \(\text{\textless CR}\) (or \(\text{\textless CR} \text{\textless LF}\) if AUTOFL is ON) when 80 characters have been displayed on a line. If your computer does not automatically break long lines, you will need to set the screen width to the width of your display. For example, for a computer using a 77 set for a display, you would set SCREENL 48. If your computer does automatically break long lines, you should set SCREENL 0 to disable this feature on the TNC. Otherwise, you will get two \(\text{\textless CR}\)'s when the line wraps around.

A few computers will frequently lose the first characters of a line when several lines are typed in rapid succession, for example, in the sign-on message. You can give the computer more time between lines by setting NUCR ON (delay after \(\text{\textless CR}\)), or RULE ON (delay after \(\text{\textless LF}\)). The delay is adjusted by NDLE, which sets a number of character-times for the delay.

Basic Operation

You can learn quite a bit about your TNC's operation without actually transmitting anything. For your first experiments, your TNC will be "talking to itself," allowing you to become familiar with it before you go on the air.

Disconnect your radio from your TNC and turn off the TNC. Install the digital loopback jumper, J1P1. The analog loopback jumper, J1P7, should not be installed. Connect your computer to the TNC with your serial cable. Turn on the computer and start your terminal program.

A Connecting and Disconnecting exercise

Packet radio QSOs are started by a connect process, which sets up the "handshaking" between the two stations that insured error-free communications. QSOs are terminated by a disconnect process, which leaves both stations free to start new QSOs. Packet QSOs can also make use of digipeaters, other packet stations which can automatically relay packets from one station to the other over a specified route.
To see how this works, you can have your TNC connect itself. Once you have set the TNC up for digital loopback, it will receive all packets that it sends. Try the following:

```
cmd:CONNECT WA7QST
    *** CONNECTED TO WA7QST
```

replacing WA7QST with your own call sign. The TNC generates packets initiating and confirming the connection. The packets aren't actually converted to audio signals and transmitted over the radio, but they are otherwise just like packets you will be transmitting later on.

The **CONNECTED** message tells you that the connection was successful. You should also notice that the Cxn LID has lit up and that you do NOT see a new cmd prompt on the next line. You are now in CONVERSE Mode, ready to start talking. Try it. Type your message, ending the line with a <CR>.

```
Hello, there.
Hello, there.
```

The <CR> causes your message to be put into a packet, or "packetized," and transmitted. (We explain in the next chapter how you can use a different character to send packets.) The underlined text is a message that the TNC received in a packet and displayed. Whenever you are in CONVERSE Mode anything you type will be assembled into a packet addressed to the station you are talking to and transmitted. If there isn't a QSO (connection) in progress, the packet will be sent to the address CQ.

In the example above, your TNC entered CONVERSE Mode automatically after the connect took place. You can also command the TNC to move back and forth between Command Mode and CONVERSE Mode.

To return to Command Mode, you must enter a special character, Control-C (abbreviated <CTRL-C>), or else send a BREAK signal. "Control" characters are usually entered by holding down a special control key and then typing another key without releasing the control key. If your keyboard doesn't have a key marked CTRL or something similar, consult the documentation for your computer or terminal program to see how to enter control characters. A BREAK signal is a special transmission (not an ASCII character) which your computer may be able to produce.

```
NOTE: If <CTRL-C> will cause your computer to do something to interfere with packet operations, such as halting the terminal program, and you can't send BREAK signals, you will have to change the character that returns you to Command Mode, see the section on "Special Input Characters," below.
```

Now type a <CTRL-C>. The TNC doesn't echo the <CTRL-C>, but you should immediately see a Command Mode prompt. To return to CONVERSE Mode, enter the command CONVERS:

```
<CTRL-C>
cmd:CONVERS
Whatever I type in CONVERSE Mode is transmitted. Whatever I type in CONVERSE Mode is transmitted.
<CTRL-C>
```

To terminate the QSO, you must end the connect by giving the DISCONNECT command. The TNC will transmit packets terminating the conversation and notify you when the disconnect is complete:

```
cmd:DISCONNECT
    *** DISCONNECTED
```

An actual QSO might be terminated by the other station, of course. In that case, you would see the *** DISCONNECTED message without having issued the command.

You have just performed the basic operations of any packet QSO. You established a connection with the desired station to begin the QSO, sent and received some messages, and disconnected from the station at the end of the QSO.

**DIGIPATCHING**

You may wish to have a QSO with another packet station that is beyond your direct radio range. If a third packet station is on the air and both you and the station you want to talk to are in range of this third station, that station can relay your packets. You set up the packet routing when you initiate the connection. Your TNC will then automatically include the routing information in the packets it sends.

The diagram below shows an example situation in which digipatching is useful.

```
         QSO
         / 
AD7I   _____|_____ WA7QST
        |           |
        V           V
        92NX
```

You are station WA7QST, and you want to have a packet QSO with 92NX. There is a mountain in the way and you are not in simplex range of each other. However there is a station
located on the ridge, AD7I, which is in range of both you and N2WX.

You direct the VMC to set up a connection to N2MX using AD7I as an intermediate digipeater as follows:

```
cmd:CONNECT N2MX VIA AD7I
```

You can specify a routing list of up to eight intermediate stations. For example, consider a modification of the example above:

```
N2MX    ___________ N7Q87
        |              |
        |    K77D   |
        |          |
        v          |
        N6G6
```

AD7I has turned off his station, but you can contact N2MX by going around the mountain through N7Q87 and K77D. This time you issue the connect command like this:

```
cmd:CONNECT N2MX VIA N7Q87, K77D
```

You specify the digipeaters in the order you would encounter them going from your station to the station to which you wish to connect.

Your station can also act as a digipeater for other stations. This doesn't require any special actions on your part; your VMC will do everything automatically. If your station is digipeating, you may occasionally notice your transmitter keying during lulls in your own conversations.

**Unsuccessful Connections**

Sometimes you will initiate a connect sequence that can't be completed. The station may not be on the air, or it may not be within range of your station. You may have even misspelled the other call sign. If the VMC does not get a response to its first connect packet, it will try again. You can control the number of attempts the VMC will make with the command RETRY. The default number of retry attempts is 10. If the VMC doesn't get an answer after this number of transmissions, it will give up and display the message

```
*** retry count exceeded
*** DISCONNECTED
```

**Monitoring Channel Activity**

In addition to displaying messages from the station you are connected to, your VMC can allow you to monitor other packet activity on the channel. You can "read the mail," displaying packets between other stations. Your VMC will also keep track of stations heard during a session. This section will describe some of the monitor functions.

**Monitoring is enabled or disabled by the MONITOR command.** You can try this out in digital loop-back mode while disconnected. Type:

```
cmd:MONITOR ON
```

```
This is a test packet.
```

Since you aren't connected to another station your packets are sent to the address "CD," i.e., anyone. The packet you sent was "heard" by the VMC and displayed, along with the sending station and the destination.
If you also want to see any intermediate digipeater stations being used, you can set HBPT ON. This feature would be useful if you later want to connect to one of the stations you are monitoring and will need a digipeater route in order to reach it. For example, you might see the following display:

\[\text{WB4YNS+WB5ETZ,KV78:Hello, Bill!}\]

This packet was sent from WB4YNS via KV78 to WB5ETZ.

If there are several digipeaters, or if the message lines are long, the display may be difficult to read. You can put the address header on a separate line from the text by setting HEADER ON:

\[\text{WB4YNS+WB5ETZ,KV78: Hello, Bill!}\]

Ordinarily, your THC will stop displaying monitored packets if you connect to another station, permitting you to converse without interruption. If you want to monitor activity while connected to a packet station, set MON ON.

To display a list of stations heard since the last time your THC was powered up, type

\[\text{cmd:HELLOG}\]

\[\text{AP7I, WV5QX, KV78*}\]

The last several stations whose packets were heard by your THC are displayed. The entry "KV78*" means that KV78 was heard digipeating a packet rather than sending one of his own. You can clear the "heard log" with the command CLEAR.

You can see the settings of the monitor parameters described above, as well as several others, by typing DISPLAY MONITOR.

Your First Packet QSO

Although there are still a number of features you should be familiar with for comfortable packet operation, you are probably eager to get on the air and try out your THC. Arrange to have another packet operator get on the air to help you get started. Make sure that your friend will be close enough to ensure solid copy, with no "popcorn" noise. It's best if you can get an experienced packet operator to help you get started. If you are both beginners, try to have both stations in the same room and operate on low power or into dummy loads.

Remove the digital lookback jumper, JO18B. Connect your radio to your THC. Turn on your computer, the THC, and your radio. Be sure you have adjusted your THC and radio according to one of the methods described in Chapter 3. When the other station transmits, the ECD LED on your THC should glow steadily for the duration of the transmission. You can work through the remainder of the examples in this chapter while you try out your THC on the air.

Starting the QSO

You are ready to initiate a connect. For the sake of example, we will continue to use WA4YNS in place of your call sign, and we will use W4RQR for your friend's call. Make sure you are in Command Mode, and type

\[\text{cmd: CONNECT W4RQR}\]

After a moment you should see the message

\[*** CONNECTED TO W4RQR\]

and you will be in Convert Mode. Your friend will see the message

\[*** CONNECTED TO WA4YNS\]

and he will also be in Convert Mode. You have begun your first QSO.

If you have trouble connecting, make sure your microphone drive level is set properly, as described in Chapter 3. It may be helpful to have an experienced packet operator listen to your transmissions and monitor with his THC. You can also try the following procedure. Both you and your friend should set MONITOR ON, enter Convert Mode and send some packets. Each station should display packets sent by the other. If only one station is "hearing" properly, you can concentrate on the modulator and transmitter of that station and the demodulator and receiver of the other station. You can then try experimenting with the TXDELAY timing parameter for the sending THC. Set TXDELAY 64 for a long delay. If this solves the problem, you can back off to the smallest value that works consistently.

Exchange several messages to get a feel for this new mode.
If you monitor the radio transmit indicators and listen to the speaker audio from the two rigs, you will have a better idea of what is happening. You radio will be inactive most of the time, even while you are actually typing. When you get to the end of a line and type a <CR>, your radio will be keyed briefly and your friend will hear a "brrraaassp" or his speaker. As your message is displayed on his computer, his radio will be keyed for an even shorter time and you will hear a "brzzaap" on your speaker. This is the ACK, or packet acknowledgment coming back. Your TNC takes note that the packet was received correctly, but nothing is displayed on your screen.

**Digipeating**

Now that you are on the air, you and your friend can try out the TNC's digipeating capabilities. This is actually more interesting if you have at least three stations participating, but you can get the feel for it with two stations.

Return to Command Mode and disconnect from the other station:

```
<CTRL>C
cmd: DISCONNECT
*** DISCONNECTED
```

Now issue the following command:

```
cmd: CONNECT WA7OST VIA WB9QRF
```

As before, substitute your call for WA7OST and your friend's call for WB9QRF. You are requesting a connect to yourself, as you did before in digital loop-back mode, but this time you are using a sort of RF loop-back. You transmit packets to your friend's TNC, which relays them back to you. When the connection is established you will see

```
*** CONNECTED to WA7OST VIA WB9QRF
```

and you will be in Converse Mode. Your friend won't see anything displayed on his computer and his TNC's state won't be affected at all by your GRID. In fact, your friend could issue this connect request,

```
cmd: CONNECT WB9QRF VIA WA7OST
```

and you can carry on two separate conversations completely independently. Monitor the radio transmit indicators and listen to the speaker audio. See if you can follow the packets and the acknowledgments back and forth.

**Special Input Characters**

The TNC has a number of special characters that can be used to control its actions. Many of these special characters can be used to "edit" commands and packet text as they are entered. These features can all be customized to suit you and your computer. Most of the special input characters we will describe are active in both Command Mode and Converse Mode; the exceptions will be noted.

The character used to return to Command Mode from Converse Mode is by default a <CTRL>C. (Sending a BREAK signal also works.) This character does nothing in Converse Mode, so it you accidentally enter it twice you won't mess up the next command line. You can change the Command Mode entry character with the command COMMAND. This is one of several commands that set special character functions. You can choose any character for this function, by entering the ASCII character code for the key. For example, you can use a <CTRL>OH to enter Command Mode by setting

```
cmd: COMMAND 5
```

The TNC displays the previous value in hex, and you can also enter character codes in hex if you prefer. All of the special characters described below can be changed in the same way as COMMAND.

We have already mentioned that you can erase mistyped characters by typing the <BACKSPACE> character. You can change this character with the command DELETE. If you set DELETE ON, you can erase characters by typing the <DELETE> character; setting DELETE OFF returns to using <BACKSPACE>. You will probably want to use the same key that your computer normally uses to rub out characters. <BACKSPACE> is more commonly used than <DELETE> by personal computers. If you aren't sure whether your robot key produces <DELETE> or
You may occasionally want to include one of the special input characters in a packet. For example, to send several lines at once in the same packet, you would have to include \r in the packet at the end of each line, bypassing its "end-packet" function except at the actual end of the packet. You can include any character in a packet including all special characters by prefixing it with the pass character, <CTRL-V>. For example,

I wasn't at the meeting.<CTRL-V><CR>

What happened?

Ordinarily, this message would be sent as two packets. By prefixing the first <CR> with <CTRL-V>, the operator sends it all at once, but maintains the <CR> in the text. The pass character can be changed to any ASCII character by the command PASS.

The cancel-line character can be changed to any ASCII character by the command CANLINE.

Here the user mis-typed the first three characters of the call sign and rubbed them out. The THC displayed \" for each character rubbed out. The user than retyped the characters correctly and redisplayed the line. He finished typing the call sign on the new line. The redisplay-line character can be changed to any ASCII character by the command REDISPLA.

If your THC displays information faster than you can read it before it scrolls off the screen, you can halt the display by typing <CTRL-S>. To resume output from the THC to your computer, enter <CTRL-Q>. These characters can be changed to any ASCII character by the commands STOP and START, respectively.
This chapter describes some aspects of packet operation that you don't need to be concerned with for everyday conversational operation. You will want to consult this chapter if you are using your station for special applications such as a computer Bulletin Board, binary file transfers, or a 'news' program. You will also find some of this material useful if you intend to operate on HF or OSCAR, or if your radio has special timing or other requirements. Even if you don't have any of these applications, you may enjoy exploring the capabilities of your TNC.

We will use the term "computer" to refer to computers or terminals. In the command examples, the TNC's prompts and other messages are shown in ordinary type, your responses are shown in bold face, and received packets are shown underlined. Commands and other special keywords are shown in upper case; other text entered to the TNC is shown in upper and lower case.

Special Characters

The TNC recognizes a number of special characters for input editing, flow control, and other control functions. You can change any of these special characters to customize your TNC to suit your applications, your computer, or your whim. Most of the characters are set by commands which specify the ASCII character code for the desired character. You can disable any special character feature by setting the character value to 8. Input editing characters may be disabled with no serious effects. You should use caution in disabling the flow-control or Command Mode entry characters. Also be careful not to set two special characters to the same value.

Special characters are normally set to various control characters. Control characters are entered by holding down a special control key while typing another key. For example, Control-C, or CTRL-C is entered by holding down the control key while typing C. If your computer doesn't have a special control key, you will have to consult your computer's documentation to see how to enter these characters. If you will have difficulty entering control characters, you can change the special characters to, for example, seldom-used punctuation.
The action of each special character is described in detail under the entry in Chapter 6 for the command that sets that character.

You can enter the code for a character in either hex (base 16) or decimal notation. The TNC displays character codes in hex. A number in hex notation is indicated by beginning the number with a $$. The 'digits' of a hex number represent multiples of 16. The values 10 through 15 are represented by the letters A through F, which may be upper or lower case. For example,

$$18 = 1 \times 16 + 11 = 27.$$  

Tables of ASCII character codes are available in most computer manuals. A table of ASCII codes for control characters follows.

Table 5-1. ASCII Codes for Control Characters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Hex</th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>Mnemonic</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Hex</th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>Mnemonic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>$00$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-A&gt;</td>
<td>RUL</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$10$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-A&gt;</td>
<td>DLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$01$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-B&gt;</td>
<td>SOH</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>$11$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-B&gt;</td>
<td>DC1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$02$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-C&gt;</td>
<td>SYX</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>$12$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-C&gt;</td>
<td>DC2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$03$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-D&gt;</td>
<td>ETX</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>$13$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-D&gt;</td>
<td>DC3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$04$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-E&gt;</td>
<td>EOT</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>$14$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-E&gt;</td>
<td>DC4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$05$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-F&gt;</td>
<td>ENQ</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>$15$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-F&gt;</td>
<td>NUL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$06$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-G&gt;</td>
<td>ACK</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$16$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-G&gt;</td>
<td>SYN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$07$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-H&gt;</td>
<td>BEL</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>$17$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-H&gt;</td>
<td>ETX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$08$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-I&gt;</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>$18$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-I&gt;</td>
<td>CSI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>$09$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-J&gt;</td>
<td>HT</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$19$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-J&gt;</td>
<td>ESI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>$0A$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-K&gt;</td>
<td>LF</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>$1A$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-K&gt;</td>
<td>SUB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>$0B$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-L&gt;</td>
<td>VT</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>$1B$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-L&gt;</td>
<td>ESC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>$0C$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-M&gt;</td>
<td>FF</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>$1C$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-M&gt;</td>
<td>CAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>$0D$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-N&gt;</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>$1D$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-N&gt;</td>
<td>SB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>$0E$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-O&gt;</td>
<td>SO</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$1E$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-O&gt;</td>
<td>SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>$0F$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-P&gt;</td>
<td>SI</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>$1F$</td>
<td>&lt;CTRL-P&gt;</td>
<td>US</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 127 $7F$ <DEL/DELY>

Operating Modes

The TNC has three operating modes. We discussed two of these modes, Command Mode and Converse Mode, in Chapter 4. The third, Transparent Mode, is a data-transfer mode like Converse Mode but is intended primarily for computer data interchange rather than human conversation. We describe all three of these modes below.

Chapter 5 Page 2
Entering Data-Transfer Mode

There are several ways to enter a data-transfer mode from Command Mode. You can type the command CONVERS to enter Converse Mode, or the command TRANS to enter Transparent Mode, and the TNC will immediately enter the specified mode. The TNC will automatically enter a data-transfer mode if you are in Command Mode when a connection is completed. You can specify the data-transfer mode for automatic entry with the command CONMODE:

```
cmd/conmode trans
```

will specify Transparent Mode, and

```
cmd/conmode covers
```

will return to the default choice of Converse Mode.

The timing of the automatic entry into data-transfer modes depends on whether you or the other station initiated the connection. If you receive a connect request which your TNC accepts, you will enter data-transfer mode when the TNC sends the connect acknowledgment (ACK) and types the message *** CONNECTED TO <callsign>.

If you initiate the connection with the CONNECT command, you can control the timing of the mode change with the command NEMODE. If NEMODE is OFF, the mode will change when the connect ACK is received and the *** CONNECTED TO <callsign> message is typed. If NEMODE is ON, you will enter data-transfer mode immediately, without waiting for a successful connection. Any text sent to the TNC at this point will be queued up in packets which will wait for a successful connection before being sent. If the connect attempt fails, you will be returned to Command Mode. You will also be returned automatically to Command Mode when either station disconnects and ends the QSO.

Converse Mode

The data mode used most often for ordinary QSOs is Converse Mode. In Converse Mode, the information you type is assembled by the TNC into packets and transmitted over the radio. The send-packet character causes the input to be packetized for transmission. If you type a full packet-length of characters without typing the send-packet character, your input will be packetized and transmitted anyway.

The default send-packet character is <CR>, but you can specify any character with the command SENDPACK. You may also choose to have the send-packet character transmitted in the packet or not. If the send-packet character is <CR>, it is natural to include it in the packet as part of the text as well as interpreting it as a command. This is accomplished by setting SB ON. If you use some other character to force packet transmission, you may want to set SB OFF and inhibit transmission of the send-packet character. If you set the send-packet character to something other than <CR>, you can cancel packets of more than one line with the cancel-packet character, which is set with the command CANPACK. Single-line packets can be canceled with either the cancel-line character or the cancel-packet character.

To return to Command Mode from Converse mode, you must type the Command Mode entry character, or send a BREAK signal over the serial port. A BREAK is not a regular ASCII character, but it can frequently be transmitted by typing a special key on the keyboard.

A BREAK signal is a continuous mark (or 1) signal on the serial port. Transmit data line lasting approximately 0.2 second. In fact, the timing of the signal is not very important, and most serial ports will recognize a BREAK if the mark signal lasts significantly longer than the time required for a character transmission. Since the simple nature of this signal, it is easily possible to generate a BREAK with circuitry external to the computer, thus guaranteeing entry to Command Mode in automatic station operation.

The following commands set special characters which are active in Converse Mode. Refer to the descriptions of these commands for details on the operation of the characters in Converse Mode.
OPERATION II: FURTHER DETAILS

The following commands enable display features which are active in Converse Mode. Refer to the discussions of these commands for details on the operation of these characters in Converse Mode.

- **CTTYOFF**
  - Retain high-order bit from serial port in Converse Mode

- **AUTOFF**
  - Add LF after CR

- **ECHO**
  - Echo after character deletion

- **ESCAPE**
  - Automatic echo of serial input

- **FLOW**
  - Type-in flow control

- **LONE**
  - Lower case translation

- **NL**
  - null characters after LF

- **NL**
  - null characters after LF

- **SCREEN**
  - Automatic CR insertion

### Transparent Mode

Packet radio is very well suited to transfer of data between computers. In some cases Converse Mode will work well for computer data transfer. However, files such as a .CMD file on a CP/M system, a BASIC program, or even a word-processor text file, may contain characters which conflict with special characters in Converse Mode. Some of these files may utilize all eight bits of each byte rather than the seven bits required by ASCII codes. If you transfer such files you will have to use Transparent Mode.

Transparent Mode is a data-transfer mode like Converse Mode, in this mode there are no special characters -- everything you type (or everything your computer sends to the TNC) is sent over the radio exactly as it was received by the TNC. There are no input editing features and there is no send-packet character. Packets are sent at regular time intervals or when a full packet of information is ready. The time interval at which data is packetized is set by the **PACKET** command.

The display characteristics of the TNC are also modified in Transparent Mode. Data is sent to the computer exactly as it is received over the radio, including all 8 bits of each byte received. Features such as auto-linefeed insertion and screen wrap are disabled, and echoing of input characters is disabled. The parameters that control these features in Converse Mode are not changed by entering Transparent Mode, and all display features are re-enabled when the TNC is returned to Converse Mode. Most of the link status messages that appear as the TNC moves between connected and connected states are also disabled in Transparent Mode.

In order to permit the Command Mode entry character to be transmitted freely in Transparent Mode, the escape to Command Mode from Transparent Mode has been made a little more complicated. You can still return to Command Mode by transmitting a BREAK signal, just as in Converse Mode. You can also utilize the Command Mode entry character in the following way.

You must wait for a time period after typing the last character to be sent. This time is set by the command **CMTIME**. Following this wait, you must type three Command Mode entry characters (default **CTRL-C**) within an interval **CMTIME** of each other. After a final **CMTIME** interval in which no characters are typed, you will see the "Ok!" prompt. If any characters are typed during this interval (even Command Mode entry characters) the escape will be aborted and all the Command Mode entry characters that have been typed will be sent as packet data. If you set **CMTIME** to zero you will not be able to escape from Transparent Mode using this second procedure.

### Flow Control

Whenever data is transferred to computers (home computers or TVCs), there is a chance that the data will be received faster than the computer can handle it. Some programs try to deal with this by providing data buffers for storing incoming data until the program is ready for it. However, this merely postpones the problem, since there is a limited amount of room in any buffer. In order to prevent loss of data the computer must be able to make whatever is sending data stop sending, and later tell it to resume sending. If you are a home computer user, you are probably already aware of the problem.
familiar with one type of flow control, which allows you to stop the output from the computer while you read it and restart it when you are ready for more.

The TNC's input buffer may fill up in Command Mode if you try to type too long a command. In Converse Mode the buffer may fill up for any of several reasons: you may be using a faster serial port baud rate than the radio data rate, radio data transmission may have slowed down because of noise or other users on the channel, the person or computer at the other end may have stopped output from that TNC. The TNC will signal the computer to stop sending data when there is room remaining for about 80 characters in the buffer. When the buffer fills up entirely, data will be lost. When the buffer empties so that there is room for at least 25 characters, the TNC will signal the computer to start sending data again.

A computer file transfer program may be unable to process data fast enough to keep up with output from the TNC. It is order to be sure of reading every character, a computer must respond to interrupts from its I/O devices. Some simple programs may poll the input register for new data. If the polling is not done often enough, data may be lost. Some computers disable interrupts during disk accesses. If the program enters a routine which will not allow it to check for data or respond to it, it should signal the TNC to stop sending data.

There are two methods of providing flow control which are supported by the TNC. XON/XOFF flow control, sometimes called "software flow control," is accomplished by sending a special character (usually CTRL-Q) to request that the output stop and another special character (usually CTRL-V) to restart output. Hardware flow control may be used if both computers use the Clear To Send (CTS) and Data Terminal Ready (DTR) lines of the RS-232C standard.

Some commonly used terminal programs and file transfer programs for home computers do not implement flow control is software, and many serial ports do support hardware flow control. Although the DTR and CTS lines appear at the computer, they may not be used on some computers unless the software reads the state of the CTS line. If you find that the TNC seems to lose data during file transfers, you should immediately suspect a flow control problem.

XON/XOFF Flow Control

If you are using a terminal (rather than a computer) or if your computer does not support DSR/CTS flow control, you should use XON/XOFF flow control, which is enabled by setting TTYFLOW ON. The special flow control characters are set to CTRL-V and CTRL-Q by default, but they may be changed. The commands XON and XOFF set the characters which will be sent to the terminal by the TNC, and the commands START and STOP set the characters to be sent to the TNC by the terminal. Your computer may receive as many as 4 characters from the TNC after sending a STOP character, since some characters may already be "in route" through serial I/O chips.

If you send a STOP (START) character to the TNC when it is already stopped (started), the character will be ignored. If the STOP and START character are the same character, this character will "toggle" the output, turning it off if it is on, and on if it is off.

You can disable XON/XOFF flow control in one direction only by setting the appropriate flow control characters to 0. If you do this, the TNC will automatically use RTS flow control to stop input from the terminal. XON/XOFF flow control is normally disabled in Transparent Mode, since all characters are treated as data. If you cannot use DTR/CTS flow control, you may enable the XON and XOFF characters (the commands from the TNC to the terminal) by setting TTYFLOW ON and TTYFLOW ON. The START and STOP characters (the commands to the TNC from the terminal) can be enabled in Transparent mode by setting TTYFLOW OFF. Note that the mode is no longer transparent when these features are enabled.

Hardware Flow Control

Hardware flow control is less likely to depend on the programming of a particular communications program. DTR and CTS are normally used for flow control signals in Transparent Mode. The command TTYFLOW OFF enables hardware flow control in Converse Mode and Command Mode. Your computer may receive as many as 2 characters after it signals the TNC to stop sending, since some characters may already be "in route" through serial I/O chips. Refer to Chapter 7, Hardware for details on the interface required for hardware flow control.

Type-in Flow Control

Type-in flow control, enabled by the command FLOW, is really a display feature. It can keep the TNC from interrupting you with incoming packets when you are in the middle of typing a command line or an outgoing packet. As soon as you type the first character of a line, the TNC will put a 'hold' on all output (except for echoing your input). The 'hold' remains in effect until you type a 'C' to end the

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command line, or a send-packet character to mark the end of a packet, or until you cease or re-display the line you have started.

Some computers have difficulty simultaneously sending and receiving characters over the serial port. This is most commonly the case for computers with 'software UARTs.' Type-in flow control will improve the operation of such computers with the TMC.

**Packet Operation**

The previous chapter's discussion of "Basic Operation" contains enough information for most packet operation. This section describes a few other aspects of packet operation.

**Station Identification**

Your station identification (call sign) is set with the command MYCALL, as described in the previous chapter. If you have more than one station on the air operating with the same call sign, they must be distinguished -- no two stations can have identical station identifications, or the packet protocol will fail. You can distinguish additional stations by setting the "secondary station ID", or SSSID. This is a number from 0 to 15, appended to the call sign with a dash:

```
CMD:MYCALL W3W1-I
```

If you don't specify the SSSID extension, it will be 0, and the TMC won't explicitly show SSSIDs that are 0. If you want to connect to a station with a SSSID other than 0, or use such a station as a digipeater, you must specify the SSSID:

```
CMD:CONNECT AD7I-2
```

or

```
CMD:CONNECT W30ZD VIA W7C1-5
```

The TMC can send an automatic identification packet every 9 1/2 minutes when your station is operating as a digipeater. You can enable this feature with the command MID ON. An ID packet is displayed as follows by a monitoring station:

```
W3W1-I:0 ID=W3W1-I/R
```

You can request a final identification as you take your station off the air with the command ID. The TMC will only send identification packets if it has been digipeating.

**Automatic Operations**

Normally, any packet station can be used by other stations for relaying, or digipeating, packets to a more remote destination. If you don't want your station digipeating packets, you can give the command DIGIPACK OFF. Unless there are special circumstances, such as a station operating on emergency power, most packet operators set DIGIPACK ON in the spirit of Amateur cooperation.

Your station will normally accept a connect request from another station if it isn't already connected. You can disable this capability by setting CONNQ OFF. If you receive a connect request when CONNQ is OFF, the TMC will display the message

```
*** connect request: <callsign>
```

and send a 'busy signal' rejection packet to the other station. If you receive a rejection packet from a station you try to connect to, your TMC will display

```
*** <callsign> busy
*** DISCONNECTED
```

If you want to have a special message sent automatically to stations connecting to you, you can specify the message with the command CTXT. This message can consist of any text string up to 130 characters, and you may include "CRs" by prefixing them with the pass character:

```
CMD:CTXT Sorry, I can't talk right now. <CTRL-V>+<CR>
I'll be on the air again after 9 PM. <CTRL-V>+<CR>
```

Joe

In order for this message to be sent to stations connecting to you, you must set CONNQ ON so that the connection takes place (default), and enable the automatic message with CMSS ON.

If you want to leave your station on but inhibit transmitting, you can set XMITX OFF. If you do this, you would normally set CMSS OFF as well.

You can have your station periodically send an automatic message by enabling "beacons." A beacon can be used to make general-interest announcements, provide packets for other stations to use to test their ability to receive, or announce the presence of a bulletin-board operation. The beacon message is set with the command BTXT, which works the same way as the CTXT command. You enable beacon transmission and set the frequency at which beacons are sent with
the command BEACON. To transmit the beacon at 10-second intervals, for example, give the command

```
CMD: BEACON EVERY 1
```

The beacon function also has a transmit-after mode, enabled by using the keyword AFTER in place of EVERY, in which a beacon packet is only transmitted after activity is heard on the channel. This feature might be used to leave an announcement for other packet users. If someone transmits on an otherwise idle channel, a beacon can be sent a short time later. So beacons are sent in this mode if there is a lot of packet activity on the channel, since the required period of quiet will not occur.

Unattended Operations

Individuals who want to leave their TNC on overnight can monitor packets even with the terminal or computer off. Just type CTRL-S then turn the terminal or computer off. The next morning turn the computer on, then type CTRL-Q. The TNC will dump everything monitored during the night limited only by the amount of available RAM.

The TNC can operate unattended for extended periods of time. If you would like to have the TNC operate as a digipeater but not connect with a station, be sure to set DIGIPRT ON and CMOK OFF. This is probably most useful when setting up a dedicated digipeater in a remote location.

Packet Formatting

The maximum length of a packet is determined by the command PACLEN. If you type more than the maximum number of characters without entering a send-packet character, the TNC will transmit a maximum-length packet. In Transparent Mode, a packet will be sent if the maximum number of characters is entered before the delay conditions set by FACTIME force a packet to be sent. Some TNCs may not be able to accept packets longer than 128 characters.

If you have set the send-packet character to CR, you probably want the CR to be included in the packet for display at the other end. If you set the send-packet character to a special non-printing character, you probably want the character to be treated as a command only. The command CR controls whether the send-packet character is to be echoed and included in the packet.

You can add a (LF) after each CR included in your packets by setting LFADD ON. If the other station reports that lines are overprinted on his display, and he can't remedy the situation at his end, you can enable this function.

Commands Affecting Protocol

This section describes some of the commands that affect the operation of the packet protocol. Details of the protocol are given in Chapter 9.

The TNC implements AX.25 Level 2 protocol, a set of rules for connecting messages to other TNCs. The version of AX.25 Level 2 protocol used by the TNC can be set to Version 2.0 with the command AX25LV2 ON, or to Version 1.8 with the command AX25LV2 OFF. Digipeating may not be successful if some TNCs are running Version 1.8 and some are running Version 2.0. In addition, the command CHECK controls a timing function that depends on the protocol version selected.

You can specify the "address" to be used for unconnected packets, as well as intermediate digipeaters with the UNPROTO command. The format is similar to that of the CONNECT command:

```
CMD: UNPROTO GST VIA HH6X
```

The default address for unconnected packets is CO.

The following functions may be useful for tracking down protocol problems. They are seldom useful for ordinary packet operations. The error-checking function of the protocol is disabled for monitored packets with the command PASSALL. If you set PASSALL ON, any "packet" will be displayed if it meets the following conditions: it must start with a flag sequence; it must contain an integral number of 8-bit bytes. The TRACE command enables the display of the address and control fields of packets, as well as the text. The trace function displays all bytes in hex as well as ASCII equivalents.

Packet Timing Functions

Transmit Timing

Amateur radio equipment varies greatly in the time delays required in switching from receive to transmit and from transmit to receive. If the TNC starts sending data before the transmitter is operating or before the receiver has had time to switch from transmitting and lock up on the incoming
signal, the packet will not be received properly. The delay between transmitter keyup and the beginning of data transmission is controlled by the command TXDELAY. During the time the TNC is keying the transmitter but not sending data, it will transmit a synchronizing signal (flags).

If you are transmitting packets through an audio repeater, you may require a considerably greater keyup delay than is required for direct communications. Furthermore, the extra keyup delay is not required if the repeater has not had time to "drop" since the last transmission. The command AXXDELAY allows you to specify an additional keyup delay to allow the repeater receiver and transmitter to lock up. The command AXXHANG sets the time the TNC will assume is required for the repeater to drop. If the TNC has detected channel activity recently enough that the repeater transmitter should still be on, it will wait only the TXDELAY time before sending data, rather than adding an AXXDELAY time as well. The commands TXDELAY, AXXDELAY, and AXXHANG all set times in units of 10 ms. If AXXDELAY is in effect the total keyup delay will be

\[
\text{Keyup delay} = (\text{TXDELAY} + \text{AXXDELAY}) \times 10
\]
in milliseconds. If channel activity has been heard more recently than AXXHANG's 10 ms ago, the keyup delay will only be

\[
\text{Keyup delay} = \text{TXDELAY} \times 10
\]
in milliseconds.

Packet Timing

The AX.25 protocol provides for retransmitting packets if no acknowledgment is heard from the intended destination station within a certain period of time. A packet might not be acknowledged due to channel noise or "collision" with another packet transmission, and since there may be other stations on the channel, the receiving station may not be able to acknowledge the received packet immediately. The time lapse before the originating station retransmits the packet is set by the command FRACK (frame acknowledgment). The maximum number of retransmissions before the originating station terminates the connection is set by the command MAXFR for the first transmission of a packet. For subsequent transmissions of the same packet the interval is

\[
\text{Wait time} = \text{DNAIT} \times 10
\]
for the first transmission of a packet. For subsequent transmissions of the same packet the interval is

\[
\text{Wait time} = \text{DNAIT} \times 10 + (c \times \text{TXDELAY}) \times 10
\]
where \( c \) is a random number from 0 to 15. Thus, if your TNC is forced to re-transmit packets, you will occasionally hear a fairly long delay before transmission begins.

Multiple packets may be transmitted before waiting for an acknowledgment. This permits more efficient channel use when large amounts of data are being transferred. The maximum number of packets which the TNC will send before waiting for acknowledgment is specified by the command MAXFRAME. This does not mean that the TNC will wait until

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have been entered before transmitting.

Question with the command PACLEN, which sets

Radio baud rate

The radio data transmission rate is set by switches 6, 7 and

8 of DIP switch SW2. (Do not change these switches while

power is on, and make sure only one of these three switches

is ON at any time while the TNC is powered.) The rates

available are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radio Data Rate</th>
<th>SW2 Switch Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(baud)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>ON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200</td>
<td>OFF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9600</td>
<td>OFF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that there is no relationship between terminal baud
rate and radio baud rate. In order to communicate with
another packet station you must use the same radio baud
rates. The length of time required to send a given amount
of information increases as the baud rate decreases. For
example, it takes four times as long to send data at 300
baud as at 1200 baud. If you use slow radio baud rates, you
should limit the length of transmissions by setting MAXFRM

Special Protocol Times

You can set up a connection timeout with the command CHECK,
which specifies a time in multiples of 15-second intervals.
This function prevents your TNC from getting stuck in a
connection when the other station disappears for longer than
the specified time. The TNC uses this time somewhat differ-
ently depending on the setting of AX25.416.

The command REPTIME sets a delay between the receipt of a
packet and the transmission of the acknowledgment packet.
This delay is used to prevent collision between an acknow-
ledgment and another packet from the sending station. This
is primarily necessary during file transfers; otherwise the
delay is best set to 0. During file transfers the stations
receiving the file should set REPTIME to 10 or 12
(default).

The timing of packet transmission in Transparent Mode is
determined by the command FACTIME. You can choose the way
packet transmission is timed. If you are typing input to a
remote computer it is usually best to have packets transmitt-
ed at regular intervals. If your computer is operating a
remote-host or bulletin board program you should send pack-
eets after an interval with no further input from the compu-
ter. You can enable the use of FACTIME in Convertor Mode
with the command CFACIIME.

Monitor Functions

The TNC's protocol is designed for setting up "circuits"
between two stations. However it can also operate in a mode
more suitable for a "sez" or "round-table" discussion with
several participants, although reliable reception of all
transmissions by every station cannot be guaranteed. This
is done by enabling the monitor functions. Most of the
monitor functions are described in Chapter 4.

Monitoring is enabled by the command MONITOR ON, and sepa-
rate monitor functions are individually enabled.

If connected packet QSOs are taking place on the frequency
of your group conversation, you may wish to ignore all
connected packets while your group operates in unconnected
mode. The command MALL OFF causes the TNC to ignore con-
ected packets.

If you want to be able to monitor packet activity when your
station is not connected, but have all monitoring automati-
cally cease when you connect to someone, set MALL OFF.

If you want to monitor stations selectively, you can set up
a list of up to eight call signs with the command LOCALS. The call signs in this list are regarded as "buddies," i.e., the only stations you want to listen to if BUDDIES is ON. Otherwise, the stations in the list will be ignored, and all other stations will be monitored.

You can operate a group conversation with some data integrity by having the stations connect in pairs and setting MALL ON and MOON ON. This does not insure that every packet is received at every station, but it does insure that a packet involved in a collision will be retransmitted. If you have an odd number of stations participating in this sort of conversation, one station can connect to itself via another station as digipeater.

For example, WBYYTSH, WBYYY, WABTYW, WBYBYL, and YBYBY wish to carry on a group conversation. In order to make all the transmissions as reliable as possible, the following connections are made:

- WBYYTSH connects to WIBEL
- WABTYW connects to YBYBY
- WBYBYL connects to WBYYY via WIBEL

If each station specifies MOON ON and MALL ON, each station will see the packets sent by all the others.

Ordinarily, only text packets are displayed. If you want to see some of the protocol packets, you can set MOON ON and connect, disconnect, disconnect acknowledgments, and DR (connect-request rejection) packets will be displayed. For example:

```
WBYYTSH>7CL <3
K7Y7B9N:30
```

indicate connect and disconnect packets. Disconnect acknowledgments are designated <UK>, and DR packets are <DR>.

You can cause the TNC to "filter" certain characters from monitored packets with the command NFILTER. This allows you to remove, for example, form-feeds, bell characters, or extra CRs that may be necessary to the stations involved in a conversation, but which may interfere with your display. You can specify up to four characters by giving the ASCII character codes in hex or decimal.

Real-Time Clock and Time Stamping

You can enable the TNC's real-time clock by setting the data and time with the command DATES. Once you have set the clock, you can request the time by entering TIME in with no parameters. The format of date and time display is controlled by the command DATES. If the TNC is powered off, DATES will have to be reset.

Monitored packets can be time-stamped if DATES has been set. To enable this function, set TIMESTAMP ON. You can also time-stamp connect and disconnect messages with the command CON Stamp ON.

HF and OSCAR

The HF TNC 2 is optimized for a local HF FM environment; the modem is configured for best response at 1200 baud. The settings of MAXFRAME and PACLASS provide the possibility of several continuous frames of long data length.

The requirements for optimum performance with a typical HF or OSCAR 10 path are very different: lower signal to noise ratios require lower baud rates, noise spikes and fades require shorter packet lengths, and a higher rate of false carrier detects lowers the total usable dynamic range in the radio input. The HF TNC 2 hardware and software are configured to improve throughput in these environments. For HF operation at 300 baud, we recommend setting MAXFRAME to 1.

The TNC detects a busy channel by monitoring the lock-detect signal from the demodulator. The presence of a lock-detect signal is indicated by the Data Carrier Detect (DCD) LED. Each time DCD goes off the TNC will start a SNAFF interval which must elapse before the channel is considered to be available. On a noisy channel spurious lock-detect signals may be generated. For HF and OSCAR operation you should set SNAFF to 0. The random wait before retry transmissions can be disabled by setting WAITUS 0 and using XORUAY to set the required keyup delay. Of course, XORUAY should be 0 for this application.

If you are operating a full-duplex radio station (simultaneous transmit and receive) such as an OSCAR 10 station, you should set FULLOP ON. The TNC is always electrically capable of full duplex operation, but this parameter causes the protocol to behave differently in acknowledging packets. In addition, the TNC will ignore the state of the DCD line. You may be able to improve operation somewhat by disconnecting the DCD line at the modem connector (J4 pins 1-2).

Although intuition tells you that lower baud rates will reduce the number of packet retries, there is usually a small range between "too fast" and "too slow." A slower packet takes longer to transmit and is therefore a larger target for fades and static crashes. The entire packet must
be received correctly in order to be accepted. Data rates of 1200 baud have been used on both HF and through OSCAR 38.

To begin HF operation, first, set the radio baud rate to 300 baud by setting dip switch (SW 2) position 7 and 8 to OFF and switch position 6 to ON. Then, set the HF/TVH switch on the TNC 2 to HF position.

HF activity may generally be found on 7.093 or 14.187 MHz. Use LSB or USB - it really doesn't matter (although most stations use LSB when referring to the suppressed carrier frequency).

Tune through a few packet signals. Tune slowly! You will find a point at which the display becomes bright (and the DCD LED on your TNC lights up). As you continue tuning, you will see the moving bar display slide across your tuning indicator. When one of the center LEDs is illuminated, you are tuned in and you should be able to copy the packets.

**NOTE:** **TUNING INDICATOR FUNCTION APPLIES TO MODEL MFJ-1274 ONLY**

Each bar on the tuning indicator represents about 10 Hz. Thus, if a packet comes through and you are 4 bars off, retune your transceiver 40 Hz in the indicated direction. The direction depends on the sideband you selected and the manner in which you have the tuning indicator oriented. One or two tries will quickly tell you which way to go. Bars to the left of center indicate you should tune higher, while the other side of center means to tune lower.

Many BBS station forward traffic on HF at the above frequencies. Call QX a couple MHz away from such channels. If you can't raise anyone, call QX on one of the above frequencies, but QSY immediately after establishing contact! Be careful on 28 meters especially that you don't operate +/- 200Hz around 14.180 MHz (you will cause interference to propagation beacons and give packet a bad name...)

**Other HF operation hints:**
1. Try to keep all packets below 80 characters in length.
2. Set MAXFRAME to 1. This will minimize transmission time.
3. Avoid multiple connections and digitized packet operation.
4. Get away from the standard calling frequencies as soon as possible.
5. Set FRACK to a sensible long value.

**Speaker monitor jack (P3)**

A speaker monitor jack (P3) is provided on the rear panel. This jack can be used to monitor the received audio signals from the radio. It can also be used to record incoming packets. By placing a jumper on JHP 7 you can send a pre-recorded taped message. If your terminal program does not have provision for capturing data and storing on disk, you can record the data on a tape recorder by connecting it to P3 of the TNC 2.

To record, connect an audio cable with two 3.5 MH plugs from P3 to the MIC input of the tape recorder. Place a jumper on JHP 7 and try connecting to yourself or send beacons while recording. Place the recording plug into the monitor jack of the tape recorder and play back the recorded packets. You should see the packets coming back from the tape. If the audio sounds distorted you may have to use the AUX jack of the tape recorder instead of the MIC jack while recording.

**Tuning Indicator Calibration (for MFJ-1274 only)**

The tuning indicator is calibrated at the factory. However, if it needs calibrating, follow these steps:
1. Place a jumper on JHP 7.
2. Push switch SW 3 to the HF position.
3. Type a message into BTXT by using the BTXT command.
4. Now start to send the beacon created above. To do this, get into the command mode and type: B & L <return>.
   (Note: Software release 1.1.3 will not send a empty beacon, therefore, a message must be created as noted in step #3.)
5. Adjust R212 until one of the two center LED segments (segment 10 or 11) of the tuning indicator brightly light with each received packet.
6. After properly adjust R212, turn off the beacon by typing in: B & M <return>.

The on-board modes can be completely bypassed at connector J4. You can supply an external modem which uses other modulation methods or higher baud rates. The interfaces available on J4 are TTL levels. Refer to Chapter 7 for more information.

**Multi-Connect Guide**

This section is a very brief tutorial on the use of the multiple-connection capability included with this software release.

Multiple connection capability is a very powerful addition to your TNC 2. It is very useful for traffic net operation.
multi-user bulletin boards, path checking and so forth.

Multiple connection operation is not the same as multi-way operation. With multiple connect, you may establish several point-to-point "links" with various stations. Multi-way, which is not available, would enable multiple station to be simultaneously interconnected to each other, with each station seeing all data passed from any station in the group, error free.

Multiple connection operation is another step on the road to proper networking, and networking should eventually allow multi-way operation.

What Commands Set the THC 2 to Normal Operation?

The THC 2 defaults the multi-connection-related commands to the following parameters:

- CONFIRM OFF
- STREAMCALL OFF
- STREAMDOUBLE OFF
- STREAMSwitch ??
- USERS 2

This sets up the THC 2 to act just like a "normal" THC does that doesn't support multiple connections. The key to obtaining this traditional operation is to set USERS 1.

How to Invoke Multi-Connect?

If USERS is not 1, you are telling the THC to allow multiple connections to your stations from other stations. In addition, TRANSPARENT mode will operate differently, in that incoming data will be prefixed with the current STREAMSwitch character and identifier (such as ":\A"). Thus, truly transparent operation is not possible with this software release supporting multiple-connections.

The STREAMSwitch character, defaulted to ":\A", should be set to a character you won't normally use. Note that this character may be set to a hex value between $83$ and $7F$. This may allow you to use 8-bit characters (ASCII 8) if your terminal or computer is capable of generating such characters. This could help prevent confusion in interpreting incoming data from other stations if they happen to send data that includes your selected STREAMSwitch character.

Although not foolproof, enabling STREAMDEL may also help in sorting out STREAMSwitch characters included in the received data from a valid stream switches generated by your THC 2.

STREAMCALL should be especially helpful when manually operating a station in which you allow multiple connections.

When in CONVERSE mode, you may switch streams by entering the STREAMSwitch character (default ":\A"), followed by a stream identifier ("\A" through ":\F"). Followed by the data you wish to send to the station on that stream. See the example in the description of STREAMCALL for an illustration of this.

If all this seems a bit confusing, don't worry, it is! The only way to really understand multiple connect operation is to try it! Tested and on-the-air, once you have gained confidence in "normal" packet operation, try setting USERS 2 and get a couple of friends to connect to you. Play with the commands (you can't hurt the THC by issuing commands to it!) and see their effects.
MFJ TNC 2 COMMANDS

This chapter serves as a complete reference to all TNC commands. Commands are used to control the many variable values which affect your TNC's operation, as well as causing it to perform specific actions, such as connecting to another station to start a QSO. You can enter a command to your TNC whenever you see the command-mode prompt:

```
>cmd
```

You will change parameters and issue instructions to the TNC by typing commands composed of English-like words or word abbreviations, which are called keywords, and variables which are numbers or strings of characters chosen by the user. You will probably never change some of these parameters; however, one of TAPR's goals is to allow each user maximum flexibility to adapt the TNC to his environment.

Entering Commands

You may use either upper case (capital letters) or lower case (small letters) when you enter commands. In order to have your TNC accept a command line, you must finish the line with a <CR>, or carriage return character. This won't be mentioned explicitly in the examples below. Before you type the final <CR> of your command, you can correct typing mistakes or cancel the line completely. See Chapter 4 for a discussion of input line editing.

This chapter will use UPPER CASE for commands and lower case for explanatory text. In examples showing input typed by the user together with the responses of the TNC, the user's input will be shown in bold face.

Whenever the TNC accepts a command which changes a value, it will display the previous value. For example, if you type

```
XFLOW OFF
```

you might see the display

```
XFLOW was ON
```

This reminds you of what you have done, and indicates that the value has been successfully changed.

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If you type something your TNC can’t understand you will get an error message. If you type an unrecognised command, you will see the message 7EH. If you get a command name correct, but the arguments are wrong, you will see the message 78AD. A complete list of error messages appears at the end of this chapter. For example,

```
CM1:ASCIIADF
7EH
CM1:BEACON E
78AD
```

**Command List**

The commands are listed alphabetically, and each command entry contains several sections, as follows.

**COMMAND NAME**

The boldface command name at the top of the entry is the word you will type in order to have your TNC execute this command. The command name is printed with some letters underlined. These letters form the minimum abbreviation that you may use and still have your TNC understand your command. Of course, you may type out the entire command word, or any abbreviation longer than the minimum abbreviation, if you like.

For example, the command MYCALL may be specified by simply typing MY. The abbreviation N is not sufficient (and will be interpreted as a different command), but MY, MYC, MYCAL, NMYCAL or MYCALL are all acceptable.

If the command requires parameters, they will be indicated after the command name.

**Default**

For commands that set values, your TNC assumes a "most often used" or default condition. The defaults are the values stored in EPROM which are loaded into RAM when the system is first powered up, or when you give the RESET command. Immediate commands perform actions rather than setting values, and don't have defaults.

**Parameters**

There are several types of parameters. Some parameters can have one of only two values, such as ON and OFF or EVERY and AFTER. If a parameter must be one of two values, the choices are shown separated by a vertical bar. You may use YES instead of ON and NO instead of OFF.

A parameter designated as N is a numeric value. These values may be entered as ordinary decimal numbers, or as hexadecimal, or "hex," numbers by preceding the number with a $ symbol. When the TNC shows some of these numeric parameters (those which set special characters), they will be given in hex. The "digits" of a hex number represent powers of 16, analogous to the powers of 10 represented by a decimal number. The numbers 10 through 15 are denoted by the hex digits A through F. For example,

```
$1B = 1*16 + 11 = 27
$18 = 1*16*16 + 2*16 + 0 = 288
```

A parameter designated as text, such as the argument to TEXT, may be entered in upper or lower case, and may include numbers, spaces, and punctuation. The text is accepted exactly as typed by the user.

Several commands require call signs as parameters. While these parameters are normally amateur call signs, they may actually be any collection of numbers and at least one letter up to six characters; they are used to identify stations sending and receiving packets. A call sign may additionally include sub-station ID (SSID), which is a decimal number from 0 to 15 used to distinguish two or more stations on the air with the same amateur call (such as a base station and a repeater). The call sign and SSID are entered and displayed as call-n, e.g., WZKA-3. If the SSID is not entered, it is set to 0, and SSIDs of 0 are not displayed by the TNC.

Some commands have parameters which are actually lists of items. For example, you may specify as many as eight call signs to be selectively monitored with the command SCALLS. The second and later items in the list are optional, and you may separate the list items with blank spaces or with commas.

These examples may help you to understand the explanations above.

```
BEACON EVERY, AFTER N
```

means that the command BEACON requires an argument which must be either EVERY or AFTER (abbreviated to E or A), and an argument N which the user may choose from a range of values. An acceptable command might be BEACON E 2.

```
CONNECT [VIA call1, call3... call19]
```

means that the command CONNECT requires a call sign argument call. You may optionally include the keyword VIA, followed by a list of one to eight call signs, call through call9.
The callsigns in the list, if included, must be separated by commas (as shown), or by blank spaces. An acceptable command might be C 2E2M X A71I W89PFL.

You can see the current value of the command's arguments by typing the command name by itself, without any arguments. For example,

```
COMBOX Y
```

Sets the value to YES (ON).

```
COMBOX OFF
```

Displays previous value.

```
COMBOX ON
```

Command with no arguments.

```
COMBOX
```

displays present value.

A special command, DISPLAY, allows you to see the values of all parameters or groups of related parameters.

**Remarks**

This section describes the command's action and the meaning of each argument. Examples may be included of situations in which the command might be used.

---

**BRITCONV ON/OFF**

Default: OFF

**Parameters:**

```
BRITCONV ON
```

The high-order bit is not stripped in Converse Mode.

```
BRITCONV OFF
```

The high-order bit is stripped in Converse Mode.

This command enables transmission of 8-bit data in Converse Mode. If BRITCONV is ON, the high-order bit (bit 7) of characters received from the terminal is removed before the characters are transmitted in a packet. The standard ASCII character set requires only 7 bits, and the final bit is used as a parity bit or ignored. Setting bit 7 in text characters transmitted over the air may cause confusion at the other end.

If you need to transmit 8-bit data, but don't want all the features of Transparent Mode, you should set BRITCONV ON and NULL 8. This may be desirable, for example, if you are using a special non-ASCII character set.

Bit 7 is always removed in Command Mode, since commands require only the standard 7-bit ASCII character set.
AUTOLF ON/OFF

Parameters:

ON: A linefeed character (\&LF) is sent to the terminal after each carriage return character (\&CR).

OFF: A \&LF is not sent to the terminal after each \&CR.

AUTOLF controls the display of carriage return characters received in packets as well as echoing those that are typed in.

If the TNC's sign-on message lines appear to be typed over each other, you should set AUTOLF ON. If the TNC's sign-on message appears to be double-spaced, you should set AUTOLF OFF. If the TNC's sign-on message appears to be single-spaced, you have AUTOLF set correctly.

This command only affects what is displayed, not the data sent in packets. If you want to add linefeed characters to outgoing packets, use the command LFADD.

AMLEN n

Parameters:

n: 7 - 8, specifying the number of data bits per word.

This value defines the word length used by the serial 10 terminal port.

For most packet operations, including conversation, bulletin board operation, and transmission of ASCII files, you should set AMLEN 7. If 8 bit words are transmitted to the TNC in Command Mode or Converse Mode, the eighth bit is normally removed, leaving a standard ASCII character, regardless of the setting of AMLEN.

To transmit and receive packets containing all 8 data bits of each character, as you need to do if you send executable files or other special data, you should use Transparent Node and set AMLEN 8. Alternatively, you can use Converse Mode and set AMLEN 8 and SBITCONV ON (however, the data you send must handle the Converse Mode special characters with the PASS prefix).

AX2SLV2 ON/OFF

Parameters:

ON: The TNC will use AX.25 Level 2 Version 2.8 protocol.

OFF: The TNC will use AX.25 Level 2 Version 1.8 protocol.

Some implementations of the earlier version of AX.25 protocol (e.g., TAPR's TNC 1) won't properly digitize version 2.8 AX.25 packets. This command exists to provide compatibility with these other TNCs until their software has been updated.

During the protocol transition period, you should set AX2SLV2 OFF.

After your local area TNCs are updated to the newer protocol version, you should set AX2SLV2 ON.

AXDELAY n

Parameters:

n: 0 - 180, specifying the voice repeater keyup delay in 10 ms intervals.

AXDELAY specifies a period of time the TNC is to wait, in addition to the normal delay set by TXDELAY, after keying the transmitter and before data is sent. This feature will be used by groups using a standard "voice" repeater to extend the range of the local area network. Repeaters with slow mechanical relays, split sites, or other circuits which delay transmission for some time after the RF carrier is present require some amount of time to get RF on the air.

If you are using a repeater that hasn't been used for packet operations before, you will have to experiment to find the best value for n. If other packet stations have been using the repeater, check with them for the proper setting. Note that this command acts in conjunction with RXHANG.

Note that the TAPR TNC 1 and other TNCs using the same version 3.5 firmware interpret n in 125 ms intervals. The value set by AXDELAY on TNC 2 will thus be 12 times the value used by a TNC 1 user to give the same delay time.
Parameters:

n  0 – 256, specifying the voice repeater hang time in 100 ms intervals.

This value can be used to increase channel efficiency when an audio repeater with a long hang time is used. For a repeater with a long hang time, it is not necessary to wait for the repeater keyup delay after keying the transmitter if the repeater is still transmitting. If the TNC has heard a packet sent within the hang period, it will not add the repeater keyup delay (AXDELAY) to the keyup time.

If you are using a repeater that hasn’t been used for packet operations before, you will have to experiment to find the best value for n. If other packet stations have been using the repeater, check with them for the proper setting.

Note that the TAPR TNC 1 and other TNCs using the same version 3.x firmware interpret n in 120 ms intervals. The value you set on TNC 2 for AXHANG will thus be 6/5 the value used by a TNC 1 user for the same hang time (when converting, round down to the nearest integer).

Parameters:

EVERY  Send beacon at regular intervals.

AFTER  Send beacon once after the specified time interval with no packet activity.

n  0 – 256, specifying beacon timing in 10 second intervals. A value of 0 disables the beacon.

This command enables beacon sending and causes the first beacon frame to be transmitted. A beacon frame consists of the text specified by BKTEXT in a packet addressed to "BEACON" and sent via the digipeat addresses specified by the UNPROTO command, if any.

If the keyword EVERY is specified, a beacon packet is sent every n*10 seconds. This mode might be used to transmit packets for testing purposes.

If AFTER is specified, a beacon is sent only after n*10 seconds have passed with no packet activity. In this case, the beacon is sent only once until further activity is detected. This mode can be used to send announcements or test messages only when packet stations are on the air. If you choose a properly you can avoid cluttering a busy channel with unnecessary transmissions.

Beacon frames from other TNCs can be monitored by setting MONITOR ON.

NOTE: BEACONS will not be sent if BKTEXT is null.
Parameters:

**ON**

The sequence `<BACKSPACE>` `<SPACE>` `<BACKSPACE>` is echoed when a character is deleted from the input line.

**OFF**

The `<BACKSLASH>` character (\) is echoed when a character is deleted.

This command determines the way the display is updated to reflect a character deletion in Command Mode or Convert Mode.

The `<BACKSPACE>` `<SPACE>` `<BACKSPACE>` sequence will properly update the screen of a video display. If you have a video display terminal or computer, you should set `BRONDEL OFF`.

The `<BACKSPACE>` `<SPACE>` `<BACKSPACE>` sequence on a printing terminal would result in overtyped text. If you have a paper-output display, or if your terminal does not respond to the `<BACKSPACE>` character (CTRL-H), you should set `BRONDEL OFF`. The TNC will type a `<BACKSLASH>` for each character you delete. You can display the corrected input line by typing the redisplay-line character, which is set by the command `REDISPLA`.

BRTEXT text

**Default:** ""

**Parameters:**

**text** Any combination of characters and spaces, up to a maximum length of 128 characters.

**BRTEXT** specifies the content of the data portion of a beacon packet. The default text is an empty string, i.e., no message. Beacon packets are discussed in more detail under the BEACON command.

**NOTE:** BRACON will not be sent if BRTEXT is null.

You can send multiple-line messages in your beacon by including carriage return `<CR>` characters in the text. The `<CR>` character can be included by preceding it with the pass character. The pass character is set by the PASS command. If you enter a text string longer than 128 characters, an error message will appear and the command will be ignored.

For example, a Bulletin Board program might set the beacon text to a message like this, updating the text after each connection:

```
Mailbox on line. Messages for W89IJW, AD7L, K00G.
```

To clear the BRTEXT without issuing the RESET command, use a \ or & character as the first character in the text.
BUDLIST ON/OFF

Parameters:

ON Ignore frames from stations which are not in the LCALLS list.

OFF Ignore frame from stations which are in the LCALLS list.

BUDLIST works in conjunction with the command LCALLS, which sets up a callaign list. These commands determine which packets will be displayed when you have set MONITOR ON. BUDLIST specifies whether the callaigns in the list are the ones you want to ignore or, alternatively, are the only ones you want to listen to.

If you want to listen only for packets from a limited list, you should enter this list with LCALLS and set BUDLIST ON. You can use this feature, for example, to have your THK "keep an ear out" for a particular station while you converse with someone else.

If you want to ignore packets from a limited list, you should list the callaigns to ignore in LCALLS and set BUDLIST OFF. For example, if there is a bulletin board on frequency, you can ignore it while monitoring other conversations.

CALIBRA

CALIBRA is an immediate command, and is used to transfer control to the modem calibration routine. Calibration may be performed at any time without altering the current link state.

Briefly, the commands available in the calibration routine are:

- SPACE Switch the transmit audio to the other tone.
- D Alternate between the two transmit tones at a rate determined by the radio baud rate.
- K Toggle PTT line on/off.
- Q Quit calibration routine.

Calibration of the modem tones is described in the modem calibration section of Chapter 5. Adjustment of the tone levels using CALIBRA is described in Chapter 3.
CAMPAC n

Parameters:

n 0 - $7F$, specifying an ASCII character code.

CAMPAC is used to change the cancel-packet input editing command character. The parameter n is the ASCII code for the character you want to type in order to cancel an input packet. You can enter the code in either hex or decimal. If you cancel a packet in Converse Mode, the line will be terminated with a (BACKSLASH) character and a new line. You can only cancel the packet that is currently being entered. Once you have typed the send-packet character, or waited for CAMPAC (if CPACTIME enabled), the packet cannot be cancelled even if it has not been transmitted. Packet cancellation, like other input editing features, is disabled in Transparent Mode.

Cancel Display Output

The cancel-packet character also functions to cancel display output in Command Mode. If you are in Command Mode and type the cancel-packet character, any characters that would be typed on the screen (except echoed characters) are "thrown away" by the TNC. Typing the cancel-output character a second time restores normal output. To see how this works, try typing DISPLAY, then type a (CTRL-Y). The command list display will stop. You won't see any response from the TNC to commands. Now type another (CTRL-Y), and type DISPLAY again to see that the display is back to normal.

You can use the cancel-display feature if you inadvertently do something that causes the TNC to generate large amounts of output to the terminal, such as giving the DISPLAY command or setting TRACE ON. If you are in Converse Mode or Transparent Mode and want to cancel display output, you must exit to Command Mode and then type the cancel-packet character.

This command sets a connection timeout. If a link connection exists between your TNC and another station, and the other station "disappears," your TNC could remain in the connected state indefinitely, refusing connections from other stations. This might happen if propagation changes unexpectedly or an intermediate digipeater station is turned off. In order to prevent this kind of lockup, the TNC will try to clean up the link if the specified time elapses without any packets being heard from the other TNC. The operation of this feature depends on the setting of AX25LV2.

If AX25LV2 is ON, the TNC will send a "check packet" to verify the presence of the other station if no packets have been heard from it for a10 seconds. This frame contains no information, but is interpreted by the receiving station's TNC as an inquiry as to whether it is still connected. If the receiving TNC is still connected, it sends an appropriate response packet. If the TNC initiating the inquiry does not hear a response after n tries, it commences a disconnect sequence, as if the DISCONNECT command had been given.

If AX25LV2 is OFF and the other station has not been heard for a10 seconds, the TNC will not attempt an inquiry, but will send a disconnect packet, just as if you had typed the command DISCONNECT.

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Chapter 6 Page 15
CLEARADJ
Parameters:
\[ n \quad 0 - 65535, \quad \text{specifying the correction factor to be applied to the real-time clock routine.} \]
A value of "0" is a special case and means no correction factor will be applied. If the value of \( \text{CLEARADJ} \) is non-zero, then the correction factor is calculated as:
\[
\text{relative clock speed in } \% = 100 - \left( \frac{9.16667 \times n}{n} \right)
\]
The real-time clock routine is used to keep track of year, month, day, hour, minutes and second as specified in the \text{DAYS} command. It should be noted that the real-time clock is not intended to be your ham shack reference clock, but is useful for approximate time stamping information.

CONFIRM ON/Off
Default: Off
Parameters:
\text{ON} \quad \text{The current connection on the current stream will not be allowed to enter the disconnected state.}
\text{OFF} \quad \text{The current stream may be connected to and disconnected from other stations.}
This command, when switched \text{ON}, forces the TNC to always maintain the current connection, even when frames to the other station exceed \text{RETRY} attempts to get an acknowledgment. \text{RESTART} and power off/on cycling will not affect this connected state.
This command only takes effect when a connection is established. It functions on a stream-by-stream basis when multiple connections are allowed.
It is useful for certain networking applications, meteor scatter and other noisy, less-reliable links, while still allowing connections on other streams to operate normally (automatic disconnect based on \text{RETRY}, etc.).

NIGHTIME
Parameters:
\[ n \quad 0 - 256, \quad \text{specifying Transparent Node timeout value in 1 second intervals. If } n \text{ is zero, the only exit from Transparent Node is to send a BREAK signal or interrupt power to the TNC.} \]
This command sets the Transparent Node timeout value. In order to allow escape to Command Mode from Transparent Node while permitting any character to be sent as data, a guard time of \( n \) seconds is set up.
The same Command Mode entry character used for exit from Converse Mode is used to exit Transparent Node, but the procedure is different. (The Command Mode entry character is set by \text{COMMAND}.) Three Command Mode entry characters must be entered less than \( n \) seconds apart, with no intervening characters, after a delay of \( n \) seconds since the last characters were typed. After a final delay of \( n \) seconds, the TNC will exit Transparent Node and enter Command Mode. You should then see the prompt ...

The diagram below illustrates this timing.

```
last terminal input command command command
  mode  mode  mode  TNC
```

\[-\text{longer}\rightarrow \text{shorter}\rightarrow \text{shorter}\rightarrow \text{---n---}\]

\[ \text{then } n \text{ than } n \text{ than } n \]

---

Chapter 6 Page 16

Chapter 6 Page 17
CHBG ON/OFF

Parameters:

ON A text message is sent as the first packet after a connection is established.

OFF The text message is not sent.

CHBG enables automatic sending of the message set by CTEXT whenever your TNC accepts a connect request from another TNC.

For example, if you have left your station running even though you don’t want to operate just now, you might want to set CHBG ON to let people know that you can’t talk when they connect to your TNC. When you are ready to operate, you would set CHBG OFF.

COMMAND n

Parameters:

n 0 - $7F, specifying an ASCII character code.

This command is used to change the Command Mode entry character. You can enter the code in either hex or decimal.

Command MODE is entered from Converse Mode when this character is typed. If you type the Command Mode entry character while you are already in Command Mode, nothing will happen. To see how this works, enter Converse Mode by typing CONVERS. Anything you type will become packet data. Now type a <CTRL-C>. You will see the Command Mode prompt, indicating successful exit to Command Mode. The display might look like this:

```
cmd:CONVERS
Hello World! I'm on the air on packet radio!
[enter <CTRL-C>]
cmd:
```

See the entry under CHUTIME or the discussion of Transparent Mode in Chapter 5 for information on how the Command Mode entry character is used for escape from Transparent Mode.

CONMODE CONVERS|TRANS

Parameters:

CONVERS Sets automatic entry to Converse Mode when a connection is established.

TRANS Sets automatic entry to Transparent Mode when a connection is established.

CONMODE controls which mode the TNC will be placed in after a connection. The connection may result either from a connect request received over the air or a connect initiated by a CONNECT command that you issue. For most operations, you would set CONMODE to CONVERS. However, if you are using Transparent Mode for a bulletin board program, for example, you would set CONMODE to TRANS so that the correct mode will be entered when your bulletin board receives a connect request.

If you initiate a connection with the CONNECT command, the timing of the entry into Converse or Transparent Mode is determined by CONMODE.

If the TNC is already in Converse or Transparent Mode when the connection is completed, the mode will not be changed. If you have typed part of a command line when the connection is completed, the mode change will not take place until you complete the command or cancel the line. This prevents the last part of your command from inadvertently being sent as a packet.
CONNECT call1 [VIA call12, call13,..., call19] ]

Parameters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>call1</td>
<td>Callsign of TNC to be connected to.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>call12</td>
<td>Optional callsign of TNC to be digipeated through. As many as eight digipeat addresses can be specified.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The part of the command line in brackets, VIA call12, call13,...,call19] is optional. The double-bracketed text, ,call13,...,call19, is also optional, but would only be used if VIA call12 is present. The brackets are not typed.

Each callsign may include an optional sub-station ID specified as =a immediately following the callsign. The digipeat fields are specified in the order in which you want them to relay the packets to the destination, call11.

CONNECT is an immediate command. It initiates a connect request to TNC call11, optionally through digipeaters. If NVMODE is ON, the TNC will immediately enter Converse Mode or Transparent Mode, as specified by the command CONVMODE. If NVMODE is OFF, the TNC will enter Converse Mode or Transparent Mode when the connection is successfully completed.

An error message is returned if the TNC is in a connected state, or is already attempting to connect or disconnect. If no response to the connect request occurs after the number of attempts specified by RETRY, the command is aborted and a message is typed. The TNC returns to Command Mode if CONVMODE is ON. If CONVMODE is OFF, the mode does not change, i.e. the TNC remains in Command Mode.

For example, to connect to WA7OXD using NRA1-1 (who is near your QTH) and NDBETS (who is near QXO's QTH) as digipeaters, you would type

CONNECT WA7OXD VIA NRA1-1,NDBETS

Packets coming back from WA7OXD access the digipeaters in the opposite order. Thus, packets from WA7OXD will first be repeated by NDBETS, then by NRA1-1.
CONVERS is an immediate command, and will cause the TNC to exit from Command Mode into Converse Mode. Any line connections are not affected. Once in Converse mode, everything you type is packetized and transmitted over the radio. Typing the Converse Mode entry character returns the TNC to Command Mode. See the discussions of Converse Mode in Chapter 4 and Chapter 5.

This command enables the periodic automatic sending of packets in Converse Mode. This feature may be used for computer communications, such as Bulletin Board operation, when the full Transparent Mode features are not desired.

If CPACTIME is ON, characters are packetized and transmitted periodically as they are in Transparent Mode, but local editing and display features of Converse Mode are enabled, and software flow control may be used. For a discussion of how periodic packetizing works, see the command FCTIME, which controls the rate and mode of packet assembly.

You should set CR OFF in this mode, since otherwise the send-packet character will be inserted in the data being packetized even though it was not typed. In order to include CR characters in transmitted packets, set SENDCR to a normally unused character (e.g., <CTRL-P>), at which point the TNC will treat <CR> as an ordinary character.

You can set CPACTIME ON for a mode of operation similar to full break-in CM, in which your text is transmitted soon after you type it, but in short bursts of a few characters, and the other station may break in at will. Some operators find it easier to carry on a conversation in this mode, since it eliminates the delays while long packets are being typed.
CR ON|OFF

Parameters:

ON  The send-packet character, normally <CR>, is appended to all packets sent in Converse Mode.

OFF The send-packet character is not appended to packets.

When CR is ON, all packets sent in Converse Mode will include, as the last character of the packet, the send-packet character which forces the packet to be sent. If CR is OFF, the send-packet character is interpreted solely as a command to the TNC, not as data to be included in the packet; and furthermore, it will not be echoed to the terminal.

Setting CR ON and SENDPAC STB results in a natural conversation mode. Each line is sent when a <CR> is entered, and arrives at its destination with a <CR> at the end of the line. If the station at the other end reports overprinting of lines on his display, you can set IPADD ON, or the other station can set AUTOLYP ON.

CTEXT text

Parameters:

text  Any combination of characters and spaces, up to a maximum length of 128 characters.

CTEXT specifies the text of the packet to be sent after a connection is made, if CHSE is ON. The default text is an empty string, i.e., no message.

You can send multiple-line messages by including carriage return (<CR>) characters in the text. The <CR> character can be included by using the pass character immediately preceding it (see the PARS command). If you enter a text string longer than 128 characters, an error message will appear and the command will be ignored.

For example, you might set your CTEXT message to:

I'm not here right now, but you may leave a message.

To clear the CTEXT text without issuing a RESET command, use a 1 or K as the first character in the message.

You cannot connect to yourself and see your CTEXT. CHSE only takes effect if you are connected to by another TNC.
Parameters:

datetime Current date and time to set.

This command allows you to set the current date and time for the TNC. The format for entering the datetime is

```
yy:mm:dd:hh:mm
```

where yy is the last two digits of the year, mm is the two-digit month code (01-12), dd is date (01-31), hh is the hour (00-23), and mm is the minutes after the hour (00-59). All these codes must be exactly two digits, so that numbers from 0 to 9 must be entered with leading zeros. The TNC does not check thoroughly for the correct number of days in a month, so you should use some judgment when you set the date.

The datetime parameter is used by the commands CONSTM and HSTAMP to "time stamp" received and monitored messages. Entries in the "heard" (displayed by HHEARD) are also time stamped if datetime has been set. The TNC's time is updated continuously as long as it is powered up. You must reset the date and time each time you turn on the TNC. If you don't do this, the commands CONSTM and HSTAMP will not enable time stamping.

If you type DAYTIME without a parameter, the TNC will display the current date and time. The format of the display is dd-mm-yyyy hh:mm if DAVUSA is OFF, and mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm if DAVUSA is ON. The format for entering datetime is not affected. For example,

```
cmd:DAYTIME 04022915308
```

sets the date and time to February 29, 1984 at 3:30 PM. The display of the date and time, with DAVUSA ON would be:

```
cmd:DAYTIME 02/29/84 15:30:26
```

\textbf{DAVUSA ON/OFF}

Parameters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ON</td>
<td>Date is displayed in the format mm/dd/yy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>Date is displayed in the format dd-mm-yyyy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This command determines the format for the TNC's display of the date. If DAVUSA is ON, the standard U.S. format is used; if DAVUSA is OFF, the standard European format is used. This command affects the format of the date display used in "time stamp" as well as the display when DAYTIME is entered without parameters. The format for entering the time using DAYTIME is not affected.

For example, if DAVUSA is ON, then July 2, 1984 at 9:28:44 AM would be displayed as

```
cmd:DAYTIME 07/02/84 9:28:44
```

If DAVUSA is OFF the same date and time would appear as

```
cmd:DAYTIME 02-07-84 9:28:44
```

\textbf{DELETE ON/OFF}

Parameters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ON</td>
<td>The delete character input editing character is \texttt{&lt;DELETE&gt;} ($7F$).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>The delete character input editing character is \texttt{&lt;BACKSPACE&gt;} ($87$).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This command is used to change the input editing command for character deletion. When this character is typed, the last character from the input line is deleted. How the TNC indicates the deletion is controlled by the BRIDGE command.

You can not use this character to delete past the beginning of a line, although you can delete \texttt{<CR>} characters that have been entered in the text with the pass character.

To see a corrected display of the current line after you have deleted characters, type the redisplay-line character, which is set by the REDISPLAY command.
DIGIPFAT ON/OFF

Parameters:

ON  The TNC will digipeat packets if requested.
OFF  The TNC will not digipeat packets.

When this parameter is ON, any packet received that has your TNC’s call sign (including 08410) in the digipeat list of its address field will be retransmitted. Each station included in the digipeat list relays the packet in its turn, marking the packet so that it will not accidentally relay it twice (unless so requested), and so that the stations will relay the packet in the correct order. Digipeating takes place concurrently with other TNC operations and does not interfere with normal operation of a packet station.

In the spirit of cooperation typical of Amateur operation, you probably want to set DIGIPFAT ON most of the time. However, you might want to disable digipeating if you’re not home, or if your transmit relay makes enough noise to wake you up at night.

The command HID enables automatic transmission of identification packets if your station is acting as a digipeater.

DISCONNECT

DISCONNECT is an immediate command. It will initiate a disconnect request with the currently connected station. A successful disconnect results in the display of:

*** DISCONNECTED

Other commands may be entered while the disconnect is taking place, although responses are disallowed until the disconnect is completed. If the retry count is exceeded while waiting for the other side to acknowledge, the TNC moves to the disconnected state. If a disconnect command is entered while the TNC is disconnecting, the retry count is immediately set to the maximum number. In either case, the disconnect message is:

*** retry count exceeded
*** DISCONNECTED

Disconnect messages are not displayed when the TNC is in Transparent Mode.

Chapter 6 Page 28
- **RECOUNT**: Increases when any frame is received with good CRC (or any CRC if HEADERS is turned on).

- **RXERRORS**: Increments each time a received frame is thrown out due to it being too short, suffering overrun(s), or it having a bad CRC. Latter occurs only when CRC checking is enabled (i.e. HEADERS is OFF). This counter will often increment in the presence of noise.

- **SENTIFRM**: Increments each time a frame reject frame is transmitted.

- **SENTIFREJ**: Increases by one each time an I frame is sent.

- **TXCOUNT**: Incremented whenever a frame is correctly transmitted.

The counters just described, and the setting of **HEALLED** are displayed in response to the health inquiry.

**ii Keywords, ASYNC**

**DISPLAY** is an immediate command, and with no class parameter will cause all control parameters and their current values to be displayed. Sub-groups of related parameters can be displayed by specifying the optional parameter-class. Individual parameters can be displayed by entering the parameter name with no options.

**DMT **

**n**

Parameters:

 Default: 16

This value is used to avoid collisions with digipeated packets. The TNC will wait the default wait time after last hearing data on the channel before it begins its own keyup sequence, unless the TNC is waiting to transmit digipeated packets. This value should be agreed on by all members of a local area when digipeaters are used in the area. The best value will be determined by experimentation, but will be a function of the keyup time (TEK key) of the digipeater stations.

This feature is intended to help alleviate the drastic reduction of throughput that occurs on a channel when digipeated packets suffer collisions. It is necessary because digipeated packets are not retried by the digipeater, but must be restarted by the originating station. If all stations specify a default wait time, and the right value of n is chosen, the digipeater will capture the frequency every time it has data to send, since digipeated packets are sent without this delay.

**ECHO ON/OFF**

Parameters:

 Default: ON

ON

Characters received from the computer or terminal are echoed by the TNC.

OFF

Characters are not echoed.

This command controls local echoing by the TNC when it is in Command or Converse Mode. Local echoing is disabled in Transparent Mode.

If you don’t see your input on the display, you should set ECHO ON. If you see two copies of every character you type, you should set ECHO OFF. If you see the characters you type displayed correctly, you have ECHO set correctly.
ESCAPE ON|OFF
Parameters:
ON The \texttt{<ESCAPE>} character (\$1B) is output as "S" (\$24).
OFF The \texttt{<ESCAPE>} character is output as \texttt{<ESCAPE>} (\$1B).

This command specifies the character which will be output when an \texttt{<ESCAPE>} character is to be sent to the terminal. The \texttt{<ESCAPE>} translation is disabled in Transparent Mode.

This command is provided because some terminals, and computer programs that emulate such terminals, interpret the \texttt{<ESCAPE>} character as a special command prefix. Such terminals may alter their displays depending on the characters following the \texttt{<ESCAPE>}. If you have such a terminal, you can protect yourself from unexpected text sequences and from other packets by setting ESCAPE ON.

See also the HPFILTER command, which allows general character stripping (rather than character translation) in monitored packets.

FLOW ON|OFF
Parameters:
ON Type-in flow control is active.
OFF Type-in flow control is disabled.

When type-in flow control is enabled, any character entered from the terminal will halt output to the terminal until:
(1) a packet is forced (in Converse Mode); (2) a line is completed (in Command Mode); (3) the packet length is exceeded; or (4) the terminal output buffer fills up. Canceling the current command or packet or typing the redisplay-line character will also cause output to resume. Type-in flow control is not used in Transparent Mode.

Setting FLOW ON will keep received data from interfering with data entry. If you (and the person you are talking to) wait for a packet from the other end before starting to respond, you can set FLOW OFF. Some Bulletin Board programs may work best with FLOW OFF. Some computers with "software UARTs" may be unable to send and receive data at the same time; users of such computers should set FLOW ON.

PACK n
Parameters:
\[ n \]
\[ 1 \leq n \leq 15 \]

specifying frame acknowledgment timeout in 1 second intervals.

After transmitting a packet requiring acknowledgment, the VNC will wait for the frame acknowledgment timeout before incrementing the retry counter and sending the frame again. If the packet address includes relay requests, the time between retries will be adjusted to

\[ \text{Retry interval} = m \times (2^n + 1) \]

where \( m \) is the number of intermediate relay stations.

When a retransmitted packet is sent, a random wait time is added to any other wait times in use. This is to avoid lockups in which two VNCs repeatedly send packets which collide with each other.
FULL DUPLEX ON/OFF

Default: OFF

Parameters:
- ON - Full duplex mode is enabled.
- OFF - Full duplex mode is disabled.

When full duplex mode is disabled, the TNC makes use of the Data Carrier Detect signal from the nodes to avoid collisions, and acknowledges multiple packets in a single transmission with a single acknowledgment. When full duplex mode is enabled, the TNC ignores the DCD signal and acknowledges packets individually. The latter mode is useful for full-duplex radio operation, such as through OSCAR 18. It should not be used unless both your station and the station you are communicating with are full-duplex stations.

You may find full-duplex mode useful for some testing operations, such as analog- or digital-loopback tests.

HEADED ON/OFF

Default: OFF

Parameters:
- ON - The header for a monitored packet is printed on a separate line from the packet text.
- OFF - The header and packet text of monitored packets are printed on the same line.

This command affects the display format for monitored packets. If HEADERN is OFF, the address information is displayed with the packet:

XY7DU=3XQ4: Go ahead and transfer the file.

If HEADERN is ON, the address information is displayed, followed by the packet text on a separate line:

WX83=XY7DU: Sorry, I'm not quite ready yet.

If you have set WRPT ON or enabled MLINE, you may wish to set HEADERN ON, as the packet header quickly becomes long enough to fill a screen when these functions are active.
HID On/Off

Parameters:

ON Enables HDLC identification by a digipeater.
OFF Disables HDLC identification.

This command is used to enable or disable the sending of identification packets by the TNC. If HID is OFF, the TNC will never send an identification packet. If HID is ON, the TNC will send an identification packet every 9.5 minutes if the station is digipeating packets. The ID command allows the operator to send a final identification packet if the station is being taken off the air.

An identification consists of an unsequenced I frame whose data field is your station identification. The identification packet is addressed to the “C0” address set by the UNPROTO command. Your station identification is your call sign as set by MYCALL, with “/R” appended.

ID

ID is an immediate command. It will send a special identification packet. ID can be used to force a final identification packet to be sent as a digipeater station is being taken off the air. The identification packet will be sent only if the digipeater has transmitted since the last automatic identification.

An identification consists of an unsequenced I frame whose data field is your station identification. The identification packet is addressed to the “C0” address set by the UNPROTO command. Your station identification is your call sign as set by MYCALL, with “/R” appended.

LOCALLS call1[,call2...,callN]

Parameters:
call Callsign list. Up to 8 calls, separated by commas.

Each callsign may include an optional sub-station ID specified as a immediately following the call. This command works in conjunction with BUDDLIST and allows selective monitoring of other packet stations. These two commands determine which packets will be displayed when you have your MONITOR ON. BUDDLIST specifies whether the callsigns in the list are the ones you want to ignore or, alternatively, are the only ones you want to listen to.

If you want to listen only for packets from a limited list you should enter your selected list with LOCALLS and set BUDDLIST ON.

If you want to ignore packets from a limited list you should list the callsigns to ignore in LOCALLS and set BUDDLIST OFF.

“*” and “#” may now be used to clear the LOCALLS list.

LOSTREAM On/Off

Parameters:

ON The TNC will translate the character immediately following the STREAWECH character to upper case before processing it.
OFF The TNC will process the character immediately following the STREAWECH character as it is entered.

When operating multi-connect, the user must enter a stream identifier (default is through J) after the STREAWECH character (default I) to select a new logical stream to send data. Normally, the stream identifier must be in uppercase, or an error message will result.

When LOSTREAM is ON, the character immediately following the streamswitch character is converted to upper case before being acted upon. Thus, the case (upper or lower) becomes insignificant. Use of LOSTREAM is useful if you are typing in lower case and don’t want to be bothered with remembering to switch to upper case when changing streams.
LOOK ON|OFF

**Parameters:**

**ON**  
The TNC will send lower case characters to the computer or terminal.

**OFF**  
The TNC will translate lower case characters to upper case.

If LOOK is OFF, lower case characters will be translated to upper case before being output to the terminal. This case translation is disabled in Transparent Mode. Input characters and echoes are not case translated.

If your computer or terminal does not accept lower case characters it may react badly if the TNC sends such characters to it. This command allows you to translate all lower case characters received in packets, as well as messages from the TNC, to upper case.

Since echoes of the characters you type are not translated to upper case, you can use this command to make your display easier to read when you are conversing is connected mode. If you and the other station's operator set LOOK OFF, you can each type your own messages in lower case and see incoming packets displayed in upper case. It will then be easy to distinguish incoming and outgoing lines.

LPADD ON|OFF  

**Default:** OFF

**Parameters:**

**ON**  
* A "LP" character is added to outgoing packets following each "LP" transmitted in CM packet.

**OFF**  
* No "LP" is added to outgoing packets.

This function is similar to AUTO LP, except that the "LP" characters are added to outgoing packets rather than to text displayed locally. This feature is included in order to maintain compatibility with other packet radio controllers. If the person you are talking to reports overprinting of packets from your station you should set LPADD ON. This character insertion is disabled in Transparent mode.

MALL ON|OFF  

**Default:** ON

**Parameters:**

**ON**  
Monitored packets include both "connected" packets and "unconnected" packets.

**OFF**  
Monitored packets include only "unconnected" packets.

This command determines the class of packets which are monitored. If MALL is OFF, only otherwise eligible packets (as determined by the BUDLIFT and LOCALLS commands) sent by other TNCs in the unconnected mode are displayed. This is the normal manner of operation when this TNC is being used to talk to a group of TNCs all of which are unconnected.

If MALL is ON, all otherwise eligible frames are displayed, including those sent between two other connected TNCs. This mode may be enabled for diagnostic purposes or for "reading the mail."

MAXFRAME n  

**Default:** 4

**Parameters:**

**n**  
* 1 - 7, signifying a number of packets.

MAXFRAME sets an upper limit on the number of unacknowledged packets which the TNC can have outstanding at any one time. This is also the maximum number of contiguous packets which can be sent during any given transmission. If some but not all of the outstanding packets are acknowledged, a smaller number may be transmitted the next time, or new frames may be included in the retransmission, so that the total unacknowledged does not exceed n.

If you perform file transfers, you should experiment with MAXFRAME and FACLEM. If the link is good, there is an optimum relationship between the parameters set by these commands so that the maximum number of characters outstanding does not exceed the packet receive buffer space of the TNC receiving the data.
MOCN ON|OFF

Parameters:
ON
Connect, disconnect, UA, and DN frames are monitored.

OFF
Only information frames are monitored.

This command enables monitoring of connect and disconnect frames when MONITOR is ON.

When MOCN is OFF, only 1 frame (packets containing user information) will be displayed. When MOCN is ON four protocol packets will also be displayed. Connect, disconnect, UA, and DN packets that are monitored are indicated by 'CO', '<D>', '<UA>', and '<OM>', respectively. As with other monitor commands, the stations monitored are determined by BUIDLIST and LCALLS.

MOCN ON|OFF

Parameters:
ON
Monitor mode remains active when THC is connected.

OFF
Monitor mode is off while the THC is disconnected.

If MOCN is ON, the MONITOR command will enable monitoring while your THC is connected to another THC. If MOCN is OFF, the display of monitored packets is suspended when a connect occurs, and is resumed when the THC is disconnected.

If you want to see all packets displayed when you are not connected but have such display suppressed when you connect to another station, you should set MOCN OFF.

NULFILTER ni[,n2[,n3[,n4]]]

Parameters:
\[ 0 \leq \text{n} \leq 77 \]
Specifying an ASCII character code. Up to 4 characters may be specified.

This command allows you to specify characters to be "filtered," or eliminated from monitored packets. The parameters n1, n2, etc., are the ASCII codes for the characters you want to filter. You can enter the code in either hex or decimal.

For example, if a <CTRL-L> character causes your screen to be cleared, and you don't want this to happen, you can set NULFILTER 12. If you also want to eliminate <CTRL-S> characters, which some computers interpret as end-of-file markers, you can set NULFILTER 12,26.

NUCLEAR

NUCLEAR is an immediate command. It causes the list of stations heard to be cleared. You can use this command in conjunction with MESSABD to keep track of the stations on the air over a given period of time, such as an evening or a week. Clear the list of stations heard when you first begin to monitor the packet activity.
MEWARN is an immediate command. It causes the TNC to display the list of stations that have been heard since the last time the command MEWARN was given. Stations that are heard through digipeaters are marked with a * in the heard log. If you clear the list of stations heard at the beginning of a session, you can use this command to easily keep track of the stations that are active during that period. The maximum number of heard stations that can be logged is 18. If more than 18 stations are heard, earlier entries are discarded. Logging of stations heard is disabled when PASSALL is ON.

If the DAYTIME command has been used to set the date and time, entries in the heard log will be time stamped. For example:

```
CMD: MEWARN
NTATA* 06/09/85 21:08:19
WRA17* 06/09/85 21:08:17
WAE17* 06/09/85 21:08:18
N0114 06/09/85 21:08:15
```

Note that no daytime string is displayed next to N0114. This indicates that when N0114 was last heard the clock had not been set.

Parameters:

ON Monitoring of pocket activity is enabled.
OFF Monitoring of pocket activity is disabled.

If MONITOR is ON and the TNC is not in Transparent mode, packets not addressed to your TNC may be displayed. The addresses in the packet are displayed along with the data portion of the packet, e.g.:

```
W0XWMT63: I'm ready to transfer the file now.
```

The calls are separated by a ";" and the sub-station ID field (SSID) is displayed if it is other than 0. The MAIL, BUDLIST, and LCALLS commands determine which packets are to be monitored. The NCOR command controls the action of monitor mode when the TNC is connected. All monitor functions are disabled in Transparent mode.

The format of the monitor display is controlled by HEADERLN.

If you want to see the station addresses on a separate line from the text, you can set HEADERLN ON. NRPT enables monitoring of the digipeater route as well as source and destination addresses for each packet. NSTDAMP includes a time stamp with the addresses if DAYTIME has been set.
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**MRPT ON/OFF**
Default: ON

Parameters:

- **ON**
  Display the stations in the digipeat path for monitored packets.

- **OFF**
  Display only the source and destination stations for monitored packets.

This command affects the way monitored packets are displayed. If MRPT is OFF, only the originating station and the destination are displayed for monitored packets. If MRPT is ON, the entire digipeat list is displayed for monitored packets, and stations that have already relayed the packet are indicated with an asterisk.

For example:

**W9FLW>AD7I,K9NG*;K2NK-7;Hi Paul.**

This packet, sent from W9FLW to AD7I, has been relayed by K9NG but not by K2NK-7. With MRPT OFF, the same packet would be displayed as:

**W9FLW>AD7I;Hi Paul.**

Setting MRPT ON increases the length of the address display, and you may wish to set HEADERLN ON as well to display this information on a separate line.

**MSTAMP ON/OFF**
Default: OFF

Parameters:

- **ON**
  Monitored frames are time stamped.

- **OFF**
  Monitored frames are not time stamped.

This command enables time stamping of monitored packets. The date and time information is then available for use for automatic logging of packet activity or other computer applications. The date and time are set initially by the DATETIME command, and the date format is determined by the DATUMA command.

Setting MSTAMP ON increases the length of the address display, and you may wish to set HEADERLN ON as well to display this information on a separate line.

---

**MTCALL call[-n]**
Default: NOCALL-8

Parameters:

- **call**
  Callsign of your TNC.

- **n**
  0 - 15, an optionally specified sub-station ID (SSID).

This command tells the TNC what its callsign is. This callsign will be placed in the FROM address field for all packets originated by your TNC. It will accept frames with this callsign in the TO field and relay frames with this callsign in the digipeat field. NOCALL will also be used for identification packets (see RID and ID).

The default callsign must be changed for proper operation of the protocols. There should never be more than one station with the same callsign (including SSID) on the air at once. The SSID can be used to distinguish two stations with the same amateur call. The SSID will be 0 unless explicitly set to another value.

**MYALIAS call[-n]**
Default: <blank>

Parameters:

- **call**
  Alternate identity of your TNC.

- **n**
  0-15, an optionally specified sub-station ID (SSID).

This command specifies an alternate callsign (in addition to the callsign specified in MTCALL) for use as a digipeeter only.

In some areas, wide coverage digipeaters operators have changed the callsign of their machine to a shorter and (usually) easier to remember identifier. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) airport identifiers, sometimes combined with telephone area codes, have been used.

Use of this command permits HID to identify normally with the MTCALL-specified callsign yet permit an alternate (alias) repeat-only "callign."

Chapter 6 Page 44
**NEHMODE ON/OFF**

**Parameters:**

**ON:** Switching to data transfer mode occurs at the time of the CONNECT command and return to command mode is automatic at the time of disconnection.

**OFF:** Switching to data transfer mode occurs at time of connection and no return to command mode occurs at disconnection.

The NEHMODE command may be used to select the way the TNC behaves when connections are made and broken. If NEHMODE is OFF, the TNC will remain in Command Mode after you issue a CONNECT command until a connection is actually established. When the connection is established, the TNC will enter Converse Mode or Transparent Mode, depending on the setting of CONMODE. When the connection is terminated, the TNC remains in Converse or Transparent Mode unless you have forced it to return to Command Mode. This is the same as the behavior of TNC 1 (running version 3.x software) under these conditions.

If NEHMODE is ON, the TNC will enter Converse Mode or Transparent Mode as soon as you issue a CONNECT command, without waiting for the connection to be established. Anything you type will be packetized to be transmitted once the connection is complete. When the connection is broken, or if the connect attempt fails, the TNC will return to Command Mode.

If you have a Bulletin Board program designed to work with TNC 1 you should set NEHMODE OFF if the program relies on the sequence of actions used by TNC 1. Otherwise, you should choose the setting for NEHMODE that seems most convenient to you.

**NEHMODE ON/OFF**

**Parameters:**

**ON:** The TNC will only switch modes (command, converse or transparent) upon explicit command.

**OFF:** The TNC will switch mode in accordance with the setting of NEHMODE.

When NEHMODE is ON, the TNC will never change between CONVERSE or TRANSPARENT mode to COMMAND mode (or vice-versa) on its own. Only user commands (CONV, TRANS, or "C") may change the type of mode.

If NEHMODE is OFF, then automatic mode switching is handled according to the setting of the NEHMODE command.

Chapter 6 Page 46
NULLS n

Parameters:

n 0 - 30, specifying the number of <NULL> characters to send after <CR> or <LF>.

This command specifies the number of <NULL> characters (ASCII code $00) to send to the terminal after a <CR> or <LF> is sent. In addition to setting this parameter value, NULC and/or NULL must be set to indicate whether nulls are to be sent after <CR>, <LF>, or both. Devices requiring nulls after <CR> are typically hard-copy devices requiring time for carriage movement. Devices requiring nulls after <LF> are typically CRTs which scroll slowly. Extra null characters are sent only in Converse and Command Modes.

PACKLEN n

Parameters:

n 0 - 255, specifying the maximum length of the data portion of a packet. The value 0 is equivalent to 256.

The TNC will automatically transmit a packet when the number of input bytes for a packet reaches n. This value is used in both Converse and Transparent Modes. If you perform file transfers, you should experiment with both MAXFRM and PACKLEN. If the link is good, there is an optimum relationship between the parameters set by these commands so that the maximum number of characters outstanding does not exceed the packet receive buffer space of the TNC receiving the data.

NOTE: Although there is no requirement for two TNCs exchanging data to have the same PACKLEN value, allowing more than 128 characters of data in a packet may be incompatible with some varieties of TNCs.

PARITY n

Parameters:

n 0 - 3, selecting a parity option from the table below.

This command sets the parity mode for terminal or computer data transfer according to the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>n</th>
<th>Parity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>no parity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>odd parity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>no parity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>even parity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The parity bit, if present, is automatically stripped on input and not checked in Command Mode and Converse Mode. In Transparent Mode, all eight bits, including parity if any, are transmitted in packets. If "no parity" is set and ANXLEN is 7, the eighth bit will be set to 0 in Transparent Mode.

Chapter 6 Page 48
Parameter:

\[ n \]

\[ 8 \leq n \leq 95 \], specifying an ASCII character code.

This command selects the ASCII character used for the “pass” input editing command. The parameter \( n \) is the ASCII code for the character you want to type in order to include the following character in a packet or text string. You can enter the code in either hex or decimal.

You can use this character to send any character in packets, even though that character may have some special function. For example, suppose you have set COMMAND 1, specifying that \(<\text{CTRL}-\text{C}>\) is your Command Mode entry character. If you use a Bulletin Board program that requires a \(<\text{CTRL}-\text{C}>\) to escape from some operation, you will type

\[ <\text{CTRL}-\text{V}> <\text{CTRL}-\text{C}> \]

to insert a \(<\text{CTRL}-\text{C}>\) character in your packet. Of course, if you do this frequently you would be better off to change your Command Mode entry character.

A common use for the pass character is to allow \(<\text{CB}>\) to be included in the BTEXT and CTEXT messages. Similarly, you can include \(<\text{CR}>\) in text when you are in Converse Mode, to send multi-line packets. (The default send-packet character is \(<\text{CR}>\).)

**PASSALL ON/OFF**

Default: OFF

Parameters:

- **ON**: TNC will accept packets with invalid CRCs.
- **OFF**: TNC will only accept packets with valid CRCs.

This command causes the TNC to display packets received with invalid CRC fields. Packets are accepted for display despite CRC errors if they consist of an even multiple of 8 bits and up to 255 bytes. The TNC will attempt to decode the address field and display the callign(s) in the standard monitor format, followed by the text of the packet.

This mode is not normally enabled, since rejection of any packet with an invalid CRC field is what assures that received packet data is error-free. This mode might be enabled for testing a marginal RF link or during operation under other unusual circumstances.

If you set PASSALL ON and monitor a moderately noisy channel you will periodically see “packets” displayed in this mode, since there is no basis for distinguishing actual packets received with errors from random noise.

Logging of stations heard (for display by MHEARD) is disabled whenever PASSALL is ON, since the calligns detected may be incorrect.
RECONNECT call1 [via call2[, call3..., call19]]

Parameters:

  call1: Callsign of TNC to be reconnected to.
  call2: Optional callsign(s) of TNC(s) to be digipested through. As many as eight digipest addresses can be specified.

RECONNECT is an immediate command. It may be used to change the path through which you are currently connected to a station. It may only be used when your TNC is connected on the current stream to the station you wish to RECONNECT to.

Integrity of frames in flight between your station and the RECONNECTed station at the time of RECONNECT is not assured. For details regarding the parameter list, see the CONNECT command in the System manual.

RESTART

RESTART is an immediate command. It re-initializes the TNC using the defaults stored in DNN. The effect of this command is the same as turning the TNC off then on again.

RESTART does not cause a reset of the parameters in table! See also the RESET command.

REDISPLAY n

Parameters:

  n: 0 - $7F, specifying an ASCII character code.

This command is used to change the redisplay-line input editing character. The parameter n is the ASCII code for the character. You want to type in order to redisplay the current input line. You can enter the code in either hex or decimal.

You can type this character to cause the TNC to retype a line you have begun. When you type the redisplay-line character, the following things happen: First, type-in flow control is temporarily released (if it was enabled). This displays any incoming packets that are pending. Then a \N character is typed, and the line you have begun is repeated on the next line. If you have deleted and re-typed any characters, only the final form of the line will be shown. You are now ready to continue typing where you left off.

You can use the redisplay-line character to see a "clean" copy of your input if you are using a printing terminal and you have deleted characters. If you have not BRKDEL OFF, deletions are designated with \B characters, rather than by trying to correct the input line display. The redisplay line will show the corrected text.

You can also use this character if you are typing a message in Converse mode and a packet comes in. You can see the incoming message before you send your packet, without canceling your input.

RESET

This is an immediate command. It resets all parameters to their default settings and re-initializes the TNC.

WARNING: All parameter customizing and monitor lists are lost.

If you want to re-initialize the TNC using the parameter values in battery backed-up RAM, you should turn the TNC off then on again rather than using this command.
REXTIME n

Parameters:

\( n \geq 250 \), specifying 100 ms intervals.

This command sets a minimum delay that is imposed on acknowledgment packets. This delay may run concurrently with default wait set by DWA17 and any random wait in effect.

This delay can be used to increase throughput during operations such as file transfer when the sending TNC usually sends the maximum number of full-length packets. Occasionally, the sending TNC may not have a packet ready in time to prevent transmission from being stopped temporarily, with the result that the acknowledgment of earlier packets collides with the final packet of the series. If the receiving TNC sets REXTIME to 10, any, these collisions will be avoided.

RETRY n

Parameters:

\( n \geq 15 \), specifying the maximum number of packet retries.

The protocol allows for retries, i.e., retransmission of frames that are not acknowledged. Frames are re-transmitted n times before the operation is aborted. The time between retries is specified by the command FRACK. A value of 0 for n specifies an infinite number of retries, if the number of retries is exceeded, the TNC goes to the disconnected state (with an informative message if not in Transparent Mode).

See also the FRACK command.

REXBLCK ON OFF

Parameters:

ON The TNC will send data to the terminal in REXBLCK format.

OFF The TNC will send data to the terminal in standard format.

REXBLCK is designed for automated operations, such as packet bulletin board stations. It is intended to help such systems discriminate between data received from the connected station and TNC-generated messages.

Correct operation of REXBLCK is dependent on the AMLEN parameter getting set to 8 (bits) since the character FF hex marks the beginning of a received data unit header.

When REXBLCK is on, data from other stations will be sent from the TNC in the following format:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SFF</th>
<th>L0</th>
<th>L1</th>
<th>PID</th>
<th>DATA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

{ prefix \{ length \} \{ pid \} \{ data \} }

The fields above are defined as follows:

prefix SFF = A character with all 8 bits set
length L0 = The high order length of the data, length, and pid fields logically ORed with the value SFF
L1 = The low order length of the data, length, and pid fields
pid PID = The Protocol Identifier byte received for the following data field
data DATA = [Optional], variable length data

For best operation it is suggested that parameters like AUTOPOP, MFILTER etc. be set OFF in order to prevent uncertainties in the size of the data field.
SCREEN n

Parameters:

\n
This value is used to properly format terminal output. A
\n
sequence is sent to the terminal at the end of a
\n
line in Command and Converse Modes when a characters have
\n
been printed. A value of zero inhibits this action.
\n
If your computer automatically formats output lines, you
\n
should set SCREEN n to avoid a conflict between the two
\n
line formats.
\n
SENDPA n

Parameters:

\n
This command selects the character that will force a packet
\n
to be sent in Converse Mode. The parameter n is the ASCII
\n
code for the character you want to type in order to force
\n
your input to be packetised and queued for transmission.
\n
You can enter the code in either hex or decimal.
\n
For ordinary conversation, you will probably set SENDPA $40
\n
and CR ON. This causes packets to be sent at natural inter-
\n
vals, and causes the CR to be included in the packet.
\n
If you have set CPACTIME ON, you will probably set SENDPA
\n
to some value not ordinarily used (say, <CTRL-A>), and set
\n
CR OFF. This will allow you to force packets to be sent,
\n
but will not result in extra CR characters being transmit-
\n
ted in the text.
Parameters:

ON
Callsign of other station displayed.
OFF
Callsign of other station not displayed.

This command is used to enable the display of the connected-to station after the stream identifier. This is particularly useful when operating with multiple connections allowed. It is somewhat analogous to the use of RBPT to show digipeat paths when monitoring.

In the example below, the characters inserted by enabling STREAMCALL are shown in bold face type.

|A|K|K|F|A|F|H|I|W|A|K|O|K|D|
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|Hello Ted how goes it?|
|WATQKD*** CONNECTED to WATQKD|
|Unreal Ted: fl-as no digital|
|B|K|O|K|D|B|I|G|B|A|N|D|O|P|E|N|G|
|ge|

etc.

The same sequence with STREAMCALL OFF would look like the following:

|A|H|I|W|O|H|I|
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|Hello Ted how goes it?|
|WATQKD*** CONNECTED to WATQKD|
|Unreal Ted: fl-as no digital|
|B|I|G|B|A|N|D|O|P|E|N|G|
|ge|

etc.

Thus, what would have looked like "[i]P" now appears as "[i]<callsign>;". This option is very useful for human operators trying to operate multiple simultaneous connections. It is probably less useful for "boot" operations.

Note that, in the first example, the STREAMSwitch characters "[A]" and "[P]" with no "[i]" after them were entered by the operator of the TNC to switch streams for his multiple-connection QSO(s). If you intend to operate multiple connections (as opposed to having your "boot" computer operate multiple connections), use of this option is recommended.
This is an immediate command. It causes the TNC to exit from Command Mode into Transparent Mode. The current link state is not affected.

Transparent Mode is primarily useful for computer communications. In this mode, the "human interface" features such as input editing capability, echoing of input characters, and type-in flow control are disabled. You may find Transparent Mode useful for computer bulletin board operations or for transferring non-text files. See the discussion of Transparent Mode in Chapter 5.

**TRFLOW ON/OFF**

Default: OFF

Parameters:

ON Software flow control can be enabled for the computer or terminal in Transparent Mode.

OFF Software flow control is disabled for the computer or terminal in Transparent Mode.

If TRFLOW is ON, the settings of START and STOP are used to determine the type of flow control used in Transparent Mode. If TRFLOW is OFF, only hardware flow control is available to the computer and all characters received by the TNC are transmitted as data. If START and STOP are set to 000, disabling the User Stop and User Restart characters, hardware flow control must always be used by the computer.

If TRFLOW is ON, and START and STOP are non-zero, software flow control is enabled for the user's computer or terminal. The TNC will respond to the User's Restart and User's Stop characters (set by START and STOP) while remaining transparent to all other characters from the terminal. Unless TRFLOW is also ON, only hardware flow control is available to the TNC to control output from the terminal.

The byte column shows the offset into the packet of the beginning byte of the line. The hex display column shows the next 16 bytes of the packet, exactly as received, in standard hex format. The shifted ASCII column attempts to decode the high order seven bits of each byte as an ASCII character code. The ASCII column attempts to decode the low order seven bits of each byte as an ASCII character code. In a standard Am.22 packet, the callsign address field will be displayed correctly in the shifted ASCII column. A text message will be displayed correctly in the ASCII column. Non-printing characters and control characters are displayed in both ASCII fields as ".". You can examine the hex display field to see the contents of the sub-station ID byte and the control byte used by the protocol. Protocol details are discussed in Chapter 9.
TXDELAY n

Parameters:

n

8 - 128, specifying 18 ms intervals.

This value tells the TNC how long to wait after keying up the transmitter before sending data. Some startup time is required by all transmitters to put a signal on the air; some need more, some need less. In general, crystal-controlled rigs with diode antennas switching don't need much time, synthesized rigs need time for PLL lockup, and rigs with mechanical T/R relays will need time for physical relay movement. The correct value for a particular rig should be determined by experimentation. The proper setting of this value may also be affected by the requirements of the station you are communicating with.

Note that the TAPR, TNC 1 and other TNC's using the same firmware interpret n in 40 ms intervals. The value of TXDELAY on TNC 2 will thus be 4 times the value used by a TNC 1 user to give the same delay time.

TXFLOW ON/OFF

Parameters:

ON

Software flow control can be enabled for the TNC in Transparent Mode.

OFF

Software flow control is disabled for the TNC in Transparent Mode.

If TXFLOW is ON, the setting of XFLOW is used to determine the type of flow control used in Transparent Mode. If TXFLOW is OFF, the TNC will use only hardware flow control and all data sent to the terminal remains fully transparent.

If TXFLOW and XFLOW are ON, the TNC will use the TNC Restart and TNC Stop characters (set by XON and XOFF) to control input from the terminal. Unless TXFLOW is also ON, only hardware flow control is available to the computer or terminal to control output from the TNC.

Note that if the TNC Restart and TNC Stop characters are set to SRR, hardware flow control will always be selected regardless of the setting of TXFLOW.

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TRIES n

Parameters:

n

0 -15, specifying the current RETRY level on the currently selected input stream.

This command is used to retrieve (or force) the count of "tries" on the currently selected input stream.

When used with no argument: if the TNC has an outstanding unacknowledged frame, it will return the current number of tries; if the TNC has no outstanding unacknowledged frames, it will return the number of tries required to obtain an acknowledgment for the previous frame.

If RETRY is set to 0, the value returned by issuing a TRIES command will always be 0.

This command is useful for obtaining statistics on the performance of a given path or channel. It should be especially useful for automatic optimizing of such parameters as PACLEN and MAXFRAME by computer-operated stations, such as automatic message forwarding stations using less-than-optimal paths (noisy HF or satellite channels, for example).

When used with an argument, TRIES will force the "tries" counter to the entered value. Use of this command to force a new count of tries is NOT recommended.

Chapter 6 Page 63
UNPROTO call [VIA call2,[call3,...,call19]]  Default: "Q"

Parameters:

call  Callsign to be placed in the TO address field.

call2 - 9 Optional digipeater call list, up to eight calls.

This command is used to set the digipeat and destination address fields of packets sent in the unconnected (unprotocol) mode. Unconnected packets are sent as unsequenced 1 frames with the destination and digipeat fields taken from call1 through call19 options. When no destination is specified, unconnected packets are sent to QO. Unconnected packets from other TNCs can be monitored by setting MONITOR ON and setting MULTID and LOCALS appropriately. The digipeater list is also used for BEACON packets (which are sent to destination address BEACON).

XFLOW ON/OFF  Default: ON

Parameters:

ON  XON/XOFF flow control is enabled.

OFF  XON/XOFF flow control is disabled and hardware flow control is enabled.

If XFLOW is ON, the computer or terminal is assumed to respond to the TNC Startart and TNC Stop characters set by XON and XOFF. If XFLOW is OFF, the TNC will communicate flow control commands via RTS.

XMIT ON/OFF  Default: ON

Parameters:

ON  Transmit functions are enabled.

OFF  Transmit functions are disabled.

When XMIT is OFF, transmitting is inhibited. All other functions of the TNC remain the same. In other words, the TNC generates and sends packets as requested, but does not key the radio PTT line.

You might use this command to insure that your TNC does not transmit in your absence if you leave it operating to monitor packet activity. This command can also be used for testing using loopback or direct wire connections when PTT operation is not relevant.

XOFF n  Default: $13 (CTRL-S)

Parameters:

n  8 to $7f, specifying an ASCII character code.

This command selects the TNC Stop character, which is sent by the TNC to the computer or terminal to stop input from that device. You can enter the code in either hex or decimal.

This character would ordinarily be set to <CTRL-S> for computer data transfers. If you are operating your station in a Converse Mode and there is some chance that you might fill up the TNC's buffers, you might set this character to <CTRL-Q> ($07), which rings a bell on many terminals.
This section describes the messages your TNC may produce and the circumstances under which they can appear.

This is the sign-on message that appears when you turn on your TNC or when you issue the RESET command. The release number will be updated whenever the firmware is changed. The checksum is a hex number which you can compare against the correct checksum given for the firmware version you are using.

**Checksum: 37F**

This message appears along with the sign-on message above if the battery-backed-up RAM checksum verification fails at power-on time, causing the TNC to load the default parameters from ROM. (This will be the case the first time you turn on your TNC.)

This message also appears if the TNC loads the defaults in response to the RESET command.

This is the Command Node prompt. When this prompt appears, the TNC is waiting for you to issue a command. Anything you type after this prompt will be interpreted as a command to the TNC. If a monitored packet has been displayed, the prompt may not be visible, even though you are in Command Node. You can type the redisplay-line character (set by REDISPMA) to retype the prompt.

Whenever you change the setting of one of the TNC's parameters, the previous value will be displayed. This confirms that the TNC properly interpreted your command, and reminds you of what you have done.

This would appear in response to a CONVERS or TRANS command, under special circumstances. If you have previously entered packet data filling the out-

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**COMMANDS & MESSAGES**

**NOM**

Default: $11 <CTRL-D>

Parameters:

n 8 to $7F, specifying an ASCII character code.

This command selects the TNC Restart character, which is sent by the TNC to the computer or terminal to restart input from that device. You can enter the code in either hex or decimal.

This character would ordinarily be set to <CTRL-Q> for computer data transfers. If you are operating your station in Converser Mode, and there is some chance that you might fill up the TNC's buffers, you might set this character to <CTRL-Q> ($7F), which rings a bell on many terminals.
Command Mode Error Messages

If you make a mistake typing a command to the THC, an error message will be printed. You may see any of the following messages depending on the type of error you have made.

?bad
You typed a command correctly, but the remainder of the command line couldn’t be interpreted.

?call
You entered a call sign argument that does not meet the THC’s requirements for call signs. A call sign may be any string of numbers and letters, including at least one letter. Punctuation and spaces are not allowed. The sub-station ID, if given, must be a decimal number from 0 to 15, separated from the call by a hyphen.

?clock not set
This message appears if you give the command DAYTIME to display the date and time without having previously set the clock. DAYTIME sets the clock if it is given with the daytime parameters, and displays the date and time if it is given without parameters.

?EH
The first word you typed is not a command or a command abbreviation.

?not enough
You didn’t give enough arguments for a command that expects several parameters.

?not while connected
You attempted to change MYCALL or AX25L3V2 while in a connected or connecting state.

?range
A numeric argument for a command was too large.

VI A
This message appears if you attempt to enter more than one call sign for the CONNECT or UNPROTO commands without the VIA keyword.

Link Status Messages

These messages inform you of the status of AX.25 connections your THC may be involved in. You can always interrogate the link status by giving the CONNECT command without parameters. If you attempt a connection when your THC is not in the disconnected state, the THC will display the link status but will take no other action. The following messages appear in response to the CONNECT command.

Link state is: CONNECT to call
[VIA call1[.call2[...call19]]]

This display shows the station your THC is connected to and the digipeater route if any. The call sign sequence is the same sequence you would enter to initiate the connection.

Link state is: DISCONNECTED
No connection currently exists. You may issue the CONNECT command to initiate a connection.

Link state is: CONNECT in progress
You have issued a connect request, but the acknowledgment from the other station has not been received. If you issue a DISCONNECT command, the connect process will
Link state is: DISCONNECTED in progress

You have issued a disconnect request, but the acknowledgment from the other station has not been received. If you issue a second DISCONNECT command, the TNC will go immediately to the disconnected state.

Link state is: FBRR in progress

The TNC is connected but a protocol error has occurred. This should never happen when two TAPR TNCs are connected. An improper implementation of the AX.25 protocol could cause this state to be entered. The TNC will attempt to re-synchronize frame numbers with the TNC on the other end, although a disconnect may result. Connections are not legal in this state, and a disconnect will start the disconnect process.

The TNC will inform you whenever the link status changes. The link status may change in response to a command you give the TNC (CONNECT or DISCONNECT), a connect or disconnect request packet from another station, a disconnect due to the retry count being exceeded, an automatic time-out disconnect (CHECK), or a protocol error.

*** CONNECTED: call [VIA call2[,call13....,call19]]

This message appears when the TNC goes from the "disconnected" or "connect in progress" state to the connected state. The connection may be a result of a CONNECT command you issued, or of a connect request packet received from another station.

*** connect request: call [VIA call2[,call13....,call19]]

This message indicates that the TNC has received a connect request from another station which it has not accepted. This can happen if you have set CONOK OFF or if you are already connected to another station. When the TNC types this message it also sends a DM packet (busy signal) to the station that initiated the connect request. If the TNC rejects a connect request because you have set CONOK OFF, you can issue your own request to the station that called.

*** DISCONNECTED

This message is displayed whenever the TNC goes to the disconnected state from any other link state. This message may be preceded by a message explaining the reason for the disconnect, below.
Additional Notes on Software Release 1.1.3

**FIXES**

- When AX25:J2V2 is ON, the TNC now answers L2 UI frames with P and C set with either: RR if connected (regardless of reverse flow control state), or 08 if not connected.
- Path for SABH received while in link-setup state is not checked. This corrects earlier operation where a self-connect via an odd number of digipeaters fails.
- T2 <RESPMIME> utilization corrected for the 2nd through nth link
- FULLPORT operation restored
- Channel capture during busy times improved
- SEGMODE bug, where the 'connect mode' setting was not used on received SABHs has been corrected. This bug may have caused the TNC to enter a state where it seemed like the TNC died, when it actually was in transparent mode.

**CHANGES**

- BEACONS not sent if BUXT is null
- RESPONHE default now at 5; i.e. 50Bns

This chapter includes detailed specifications and a functional description of the hardware design of the MFJ TNC 2.

### TNC 2 Specifications

**Processor**

- CNOS 2-BBA

**Clocks**

- Processor master clock input frequency: 2.4576 MHz
- Jumper selectable to 4.9152 MHz (requires use of 8550 CPU, 2880 810/8 and 280 nSec EPROMs).
- User Port Clock: Switch selectable at 16x baud rate.

**Memory**

- All memory in industry-standard JEDEC Byte-Wide sockets.
- Standard complement of ROM: 32k = 1 x 27C256
- Standard complement of RAM: 16k = 2 x 6264LP
- ROM jumper selectable for 8k-, 16k-, or 32k-byte parts. Memory can be expanded to 32k ROM and 32k RAM using currently available parts.

**Serial Port**

- S8440 SIO/8 port 5 configured as UART plus low-power TTL-to-5V/8-2520 signal level interface.
- Baud rates supported: 300, 1200, 2400, 4800 and 9600.
- 8-pin TTL connector for TTL serial port.

**Modem**

- Demodulator: XR2211 PLL demodulator circuit plus related components to receive up to 1200 baud.
- Modulator: XR2206 modulator circuit plus related components to produce 1200 baud 1200 Hz/2200 Hz (VHF) 300 baud 1600 Hz/300 Hz (UHF) phase coherent FSK.
- Built-in modem calibration system requires no additional equipment.
An external modem may be attached via a single connector which completely bypasses the on-board modes.

Support for an external modem tuning indicator is provided via a separate connector (for 12780 only). The TNC-2 supports the AX.25 protocol. The battery-backed RAM (Random Access Memory) provides a scratch-pad area for temporary data as well as non-volatile storage for operating parameters such as your station call sign. The battery-back-up feature enables the TNC to "remember" these values when power is off so you don't have to enter them every time you want to operate.

Other integrated circuits are used for functions including clock oscillator, baud-rate generator, assembly-space decoder, power supply and voltage inverter, clock recovery, transmit watch-dog timer and modes. Refer to the schematic diagram while reading the following circuit descriptions.

Detailed Circuit Description

Oscillator

U16a, U10b, U10c, R46, B47, B48, C24, C47, C51, and Y1 provide an accurate crystal-controlled oscillator for system timing.

R48 forces inverter U16a into its linear region and provides a load for crystal Y1. C47 provides an adjustable reactive element to allow the oscillator's frequency to be precisely set (this precision is not normally required). Inverter U10c buffers the clock for additional stability before driving additional dividers.

R46 is used to bias "HCT" logic to the proper levels for the oscillator operation; it is not necessary if U10 is an "AC" logic element.

Dividers and Baud-rate Generator

U10a, U10f, U4a, U4b, U1, and SW2 provide clock outputs derived from the oscillator. Only one of the first 5 switches (terminal baud rate) and only one of the last 3 switches (RF baud rate) should be on at any time.

Inverter U10f provides buffering and isolation between the divide-by-two output of counter U4a and the capacitive load presented by the CPU (U22) and the SIO (U21). U10f's input may be 2.4076 MHz (standard) or 4.8152 MHz via jumper J9W. Operation at the faster clock may require the use of higher-speed parts. Capacitors C39 and C66 are used to slow the edges of the outputs of U4a, and capacitor C61 is used to slow the edges from U10f, helping to reduce RFI.

Chapter 7 Page 2
Counter U7 is a multiple-stage divide-by-two circuit that divides the signal at its input many times. This allows you to select, via switch SW2, the desired signaling (baud) rate to be used for your computer or terminal as well as the radio channel baud rate.

The output from counter U1 at pin 12 provides a real-time clock interval signal for the SIO. During normal operation, the SIO will be programmed to interrupt the CPU on every transition of this 500 Hz signal. This interrupt occurs 1200 times a second, and is used for protocol and calibration timing functions.

Inverter U10a buffers the radio port 16k baud-rate signal in case it is routed, via nodes, disconnect J4 pins 11 and 12, to an external mode. If this buffer were not included, reflections from the distant termination might cause counter U7 to generate count errors.

Counter U4b provides a properly scaled clock for the transmit RS232 to HSSI encoder (see Serial Interface, below).

CPU Complex

EPROM U23 provides system ROM for program storage. Selector S12a acts as a ROM decoder, mapping the ROM into the CPU's memory address space beginning at address 0.

Static RAMs U24 and U25 provide system RAM for temporary scratch-pad storage, message buffers, etc. Also, because the RAM is backed up by a battery and will not lose its contents when the main power is removed, it is used to provide semi-permanent storage of user-supplied information (such as your call sign). Selector NT5 acts as a RAM address decoder, with RAM starting at address 8000 hex.

Memory Expansion

JMP12 allows selection of 16k bytes (using 2 x 6264 8k RAMs) or 32k bytes (using 1 x 45256 32k RAM) of RAM.

The NJO TNC-2 is supplied with 16k bytes of RAM. For 32k bytes expansion, remove jumper on pins 2 and 3 of JMP12 and install it on pins 1 and 2 of JMP12. Remove the two 6264 RAMs (U24 and U25) and replace them with one 45256 32k RAM. Install the 32k RAM on U26 socket. U24 socket will be left unused. The 32k RAM may be used with some ASCII modems. Hitachi MB64256L-15 or SN62256L-15 and Toshiba 59257FL-15.

TNC 2 software releases (1.1.1, 1.1.2, or 1.1.3) will not support the 32k expansion. The 27128 EPROM (U23) must be replaced with the 1.1.4 software release for the TNC 2 to support the 32k expansion. Please contact NJO Enterprises, Inc. for more information concerning the 1.1.4 software release.

The sections of CMOS switch U13 are used to insure that the RAM is not selected when main power is removed. This ensures that the contents of the RAM are not accidentally scrambled as the CPU loses power; it also ensures that the RAM is in the "power-down" state for minimum battery power consumption.

Serial Interface

Serial Input/Output (SIO) device U21 provides two channels of serial I/O.

The B SIO channel is used for the computer or terminal interface. Operational amplifier sections U3a, U3b, and U3c act as RS-232 drivers while schmitt trigger inverters U9a and U9b act as RS-232 receivers. These circuits consume less power than conventional RS-232 drivers and receivers.

The A SIO channel is used for the radio/modem interface and is normally operated as a full duplex HRC channel for compatibility with the AX-25 protocol specification. Latch U5 and ROM U6 provide a "state machine" for recovering the clock from the received HSSI data. The state machine also converts HSSI data to RS232 for the SIO. Inverter U9c and flip-flop U11a provide HSSI to RS232 conversion for the transmit side of the radio channel. This conversion between HSSI formatted data and RS232 formatted data is necessary because the AX-25 protocol specification requires HSSI operation while the SIO is only capable of RS232. Jumper JMP11 may be used to bypass the HSSI --> RS232 conversion for use with external modems, if required.

Watch-dog Timer

Inverters U7a, U7b, U7c, and Q10 provide a "watch-dog" timer on the transmit key line to ensure that the transmitter does not remain keyed for more than about 30 seconds if the TNC fails. This allows you to leave a station (such as a remote digipeater) on-the-air and unattended without much chance of a malfunction "locking up" the packet channel. This also helps ensure compliance with FCC regulations regarding unattended station operation.

Jumper JNP4 is provided for testing purposes. When JNP4 is installed, timing capacitor C31 is shunted, disabling the watch-dog timer.
Modem

UI6, an XR2266, is a Frequency Shift Keying (FSK) modulator that generates an audio data signal for use by the radio transmitter. Two tones are used, one for each digital level, and these tones may be calibrated via trimpots R77 and R78 in conjunction with the on-board calibration support circuitry and software. When the transmitter is not being keyed, transistor Q9 is switched on, thus preventing UI6 from producing tones. This allows you to leave a microphone connected to your pocket transmitter for voice operation.

R76 is used to set the tone output level to the transmitter.

UI2, an XR2211, provides a Phase Locked Loop (PLL) FSK demodulator. It converts the received audio FSK signals into digital data at standard logic levels. This data is sent to the state machine clock recovery and XR81 to NRZ format conversion circuits. R79 is used to calibrate the PLL demodulator's free-running frequency which is not midway between the FSK tones being received. This tone is measured by the calibration software and the output signal produced by UI6 and UI8, which is a frequency doubling shaping circuit.

Power Supply

Regulator Q9 and associated components provide a +5 volt regulated output for the THS digital logic circuitry. In order to reduce conducted RFI from the digital power source, series inductor L1 is provided. Transistor Q4, in conjunction with MOSFET inverters in UI4, provides a "power failure" circuit for the battery-backed RAM chips to ensure that RAM is in the "power-down" state when the main power is removed. In addition, this circuit provides the main power-on reset signal via U7c.

Transistors Q5 and Q6 are used to isolate the battery from the +5 volt line when main power is unavailable. R21 protects the lithium battery from overload conditions and provides a convenient means of monitoring battery current drain when the THS is switched off. J10 provides a means of disconnecting the lithium battery for THS 2 maintenance.

U2 and associated components form a charge-pump voltage inverter which generates an unregulated negative supply for the RS-232C driver.

U30, G2, C66 and surrounding components provide a regulated source of +5 volts for the modem chips.

The modem power sources and ground are isolated from digital logic switching noise by inductor L2.

RS-232C Handshaking Protocol

The CT5, DSR and DTR lines of the RS-232C port (J1) are used for hardware "handshaking" protocol to control the flow of data between the terminal (DTE) and the THS (DCE).

The THS always asserts (makes true) Data Set Ready (DSR) on J1 pin 6 via resistor R16. Thus, whenever the THS is powered up, it signals to the terminal connected to J1 that the THS is "on line."

The terminal indicates it is ready to receive data from the THS by asserting its Data Terminal Ready (DTR) output, J1 pin 2B. The THS will send data when it has data to send and DTR is asserted. If the terminal is not ready to receive data, it should negate (make false) DTR to the THS. Thus, data flow from the THS to the terminal is controlled by the use of the DTR line. The state of the DTR line is ignored by the software if "software flow control" is enabled in this direction.

The THS asserts its Clear To Send (CTS) output, J1 pin 5, whenever it is ready to receive data from the terminal. If the THS's buffers fill, it will negate CTS, signaling the terminal to stop sending data. The THS will assert CTS when it is again ready to receive data from the terminal. Thus, data flow from the terminal to the THS is controlled by the use of the CTS line. The CTS line is always asserted if "software flow control" is enabled in this direction.

Some serial I/O ports do not implement CTS, DTR and DSR handshaking. If these pins are not connected at the terminal end, they will be pulled up (and thus asserted) by resistors at the THS end. However, a non-standard serial connector may use some pins for other purposes, such as supplying power to a peripheral device, so be sure that your system either implements the CTS, DTR and DSR handshake or has no connections to these pins of J1. Whatever. Note that this reference to RS-232C "compatibility" or the presence of a DB-25 type connector does not guarantee that you have a full RS-232C serial port.

The THS THS 2 supports most standard baud rates from 300 through 9600. The port supports standard parity options as well as 7- or 8-bit character lengths. Setting these terminal parameters is discussed in Chapter 4.

If you want to interface your THS with a device configured as DCE, such as a telephone modem or another THS, a so-called "null modem" cable may be constructed to interchange the data and handshake signals. See for example BTSJ, February, 1981, page 198.
Jumper Functions

The following table lists the function of each jumper on the TNC 2 PC board. The default positions for JNPF, JNF6, JNPF9, and JNPF10 are necessary for normal operation to occur.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jumper</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JNPF1</td>
<td>ON (default)</td>
<td>ICD1 (RS-232C) stays on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>ICD1 reflects connect status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNPF2</td>
<td>LEFT</td>
<td>4.92 MHz CPU clock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RIGHT (default)</td>
<td>2.46 MHz CPU clock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNPF3</td>
<td>ON (default)</td>
<td>disable Tx watch-dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>enable Tx watch-dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNPF4</td>
<td>ON (default)</td>
<td>Lithium battery connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>Lithium battery disconnected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNPF5</td>
<td>ON (default)</td>
<td>U23 is type 27156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>U23 is not type 27156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNPF6</td>
<td>ON (default)</td>
<td>analog loopback mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>normal modem operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNPF7</td>
<td>ON (default)</td>
<td>demodulator enabled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>demodulator calibrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNPF8</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNPF9</td>
<td>TOP</td>
<td>calibrate U16 tone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIDDLE</td>
<td>calibrate U28 tone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>bypass state machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OFF (default)</td>
<td>normal modem operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNPF10</td>
<td>ON (default)</td>
<td>digital loopback mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>normal modem operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNPF11</td>
<td>LEFT</td>
<td>transmit data RXE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RIGHT (default)</td>
<td>transmit data UBE1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNPF12</td>
<td>PIN 2,3 (default)</td>
<td>16K RAM (2 x 4264)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PIN 1,2</td>
<td>32K RAM (1 x 43256)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mode Disconnect = J4

The modem disconnect, J4, on the TNC 2 PC board is provided for using an external modem with the TNC. This allows use of higher-speed modems, such as 9600 baud, or more sophisticated, higher-performance modems for OSCAR or other uses.

The following information is primarily for those who wish to interface external modems to the TNC. Familiarity with modem and serial data channel terms is assumed.

A physical connector for J4 is not supplied with the TNC. Any standard 28-pin header for use with TNC cable connectors should work. Suitable parts are the Amphenol 689-2827, the 3M 4620-6281, etc.

When installing the connector, be sure to line up the marked pin (pin 1) of the header with the lower edge of the PC board nearest U21. Cut the traces on the bottom of the TNC PC board, with a sharp knife or Moto-Tool, between pair of adjacent pins of J4. To use the on-board modem, install push-on jumper links across those same pin pairs.

The signals used at connector J4 are at standard TEL interface levels. A TEL high, or 1, is greater than +2.4 volts but less than +5.25 volts. A TEL low, or 0, is less than 4.8 volts but greater than -0.4 volts. DO NOT connect an RS-232C level modem directly to J4!

NOTE: The modem disconnect is similar, but not identical to that used in TNC 1. Be very careful about interfacing an external modem using the same cabling you may have prepared for use with TNC 1!

The connector pin-outs are as follows.

**Pin 1** Carrier Detect Input

This pin tells the 210 radio port that a valid data carrier has been detected. It should be pulsed high when no carrier is detected and low when a carrier is present. This line must be implemented unless the software release notes indicate otherwise. It is normally jumpered to pin 2 when the on-board modem is used.

**Pin 2** Carrier Detect Output

This pin is an output from the the on-board modem and satisfies the requirements outlined for pin 1 above. It is normally jumpered to pin 1 when the on-board modem is used.
Pin 3  SIO Special Interrupt Input
This signal is routed to the radio port DCD input pin on SIO 8211. This signal is normally used during node calibration. It may also be used for other purposes; if so, these functions will be listed in the software release notes. This pin is normally jumpered to pin 4 when the on-board modem is used.

Pin 4  SIO Special Interrupt Generator Output
This signal is an output from the on-board modem. It is normally used for node calibration only. If it is used for other functions, they will be stated in the software release notes. This pin is normally jumpered to pin 3 when the on-board modem is used.

Pin 5  SIO RTS Output
This signal is used for transmitter activation. The SIO will pull this output low when the TNC wants to transmit; otherwise it will remain high. This pin is normally jumpered to pin 6 when the on-board modem is used.

Pin 6  Transmitter Key Input
This signal is an input to the on-board modem. It activates the PTT pin of the radio connector via the watch-dog timer. It should be left high and pulled low only when transmission is desired. This pin is normally jumpered to pin 5 when the on-board modem is used.

Pin 7  CONNECT Status Output
This pin is an output from the SIO. It is normally low and goes high only when the TNC is in the connected (error-free) mode with another packet station. Its status is monitored via the COM LED.

Pin 8  Unacknowledged Packets Pending Status Output
This pin is an output from the SIO. It is normally low and goes high only when this TNC has unacknowledged packets in its transmit buffer. Its status is monitored via the STA LED.

Pin 9  CTS Input
This pin is an input to the SIO. It is high when the attached modem is not ready to accept data, and low when the attached modem is ready to accept data. The TNC will not attempt to send data when this pin is high. This pin is normally jumpered to pin 10 when the on-board modem is used.

Pin 10  Transmitter Key Input
This pin is physically tied to pin 6, above. It is used in conjunction with pin 9, above, to allow the TNC to use the on-board modem whenever the transmitter is activated.

Pin 11  Transmitter Clock (16x) Input
This pin is tied to the HRE-to-HREI converter, which expects a clock signal at 16 times the desired radio port data rate, e.g., 4800 Hz for 300 baud. This pin is normally jumpered to pin 12 when the on-board modem is used.

Pin 12  Transmitter Clock (16x) Output
This pin is tied to the radio baud rate switch network. It provides a clock at 16 times the desired radio port data rate. This pin is normally jumpered to pin 11 when the on-board modem is used.

Pin 13  Receive Clock Input
This pin is tied to the SIO receive clock input pin. It expects a clock at the desired data rate (1200 Hz for 1200 baud), of the proper phase relationship to the received data. This pin is normally jumpered to pin 14 when the on-board modem is used.

Pin 14  Receive Clock Output
This pin is the received data clock signal derived from the HREI-to-HRE2 state machine. This pin is normally jumpered to pin 13 when the on-board modem is used.

Pin 15  TNC 2 Ground Reference
This pin ties to the TNC digital ground system, at the SIO.

Pin 16  No Connection
This pin is unused.

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Pin 17 Receive Data Input

This pin is the received data input to the XR2211-to-NRI state machine. This pin is normally jumpered to pin 18 when the on-board modem is used.

Pin 18 Receive Data Output

This pin provides receive data from the on-board modem. This pin is normally jumpered to pin 17 when the on-board modem is used.

Pin 19 Transmit Data Output

This line is the NRI or XR2211 (depending on the state of JNP11) data output. This pin is normally jumpered to pin 20 when the on-board modem is used.

Pin 20 Transmit Data Input

This input line accepts data to be transmitted by the modem. This pin is normally jumpered to pin 19 when the on-board modem is used.

If you elect to use an off-board modem, be sure to properly shield the interconnecting cables for RFI protection.

Tuning Indicator Interface – J3 (for HFJ-1270B only)

In order to facilitate communications on HF and ESQR, the HFJ TEC 2 includes a connector for attaching a tuning indicator. The attached unit may range from an oscilloscope to a specialized, LED-style unit such as the one described in the June 1986 PSB. Refer to the IEEE Application Note referenced in the Hardware - Reference Manual for details on functions of the XR2211 signals available on this connector.

NOTE: Exercise caution when using this connector. Be especially aware that the TEC 2 modem circuitry is referenced to ±5 volts and ±5 volts, not ±12 volts and 0 volts. Addition of the tuning indicator to J3 may increase current consumption by 100 mA. Be sure the power supply has enough capacity to support the tuning indicator.

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The connector pinouts are as follows.

Pin 1 –5 volts (Common)

This pin is the on-board modem’s analog common. It is not ground, but –5 volts. This pin should not be used to sink appreciable currents or excessive noise may be introduced into the modem, reducing its performance.

Pin 2 Loop Data Filter Output

This pin is connected to the output of the XR2211 PLL data filter (028 pin 8). It is a high-impedance source, and care should be exercised to ensure that no extraneous signals or low-impedance loads are attached.

Pin 3 Demodulator Reference Voltage

The internal XR2211 data comparator reference voltage is available on this pin. By comparing this voltage with the signal on J3 pin 2, correct tuning may be accomplished. As above, this pin must be carefully shielded from noise, and has a relatively high impedance.

Pin 4 Data Carrier Detect

This pin is an open-collector output that goes near –5 volts (J3 pin 1) when valid data is not present. It is pulled to +5 volts by R74 when valid data is detected.

Pin 5 +5 Volts

This pin is a source of +5 volts DC. It should not be used to source more than a few milliamperes of current or degradation of the on-board modem’s weak-signal performance may result.

HF Tuning Indicator (for HFJ-1274 only)

The HFJ-1274 TEC 2 has a built-in tuning indicator for HF operation. It is set for a center frequency of 1700 Hz. The incoming audio frequency is centered at 1700 Hz. This is indicated by one or two of the centermost LEDs brightly lit. When you are tuned to a lower center frequency, the LED to the left of center lights. When you are tuned too high, the right of center LED lights. The resolution between LED segments is approximately 18 Hz.
**HF/VHF Switch (SW3)**

The HF/VHF (SW3) is located in the back panel of the TNC 2. This switch selects which set of transmit tones are being used and which set of resistors and capacitors are connected to the demodulator of the TNC 2.

In VHF operation, R77 (space), R78 (mark), R93, R95, C45 and C54 are selected. The hack frequency is factory set to 1200 Hz and the space frequency is factory set to 2200 Hz.

In HF operation, R105 (space), R106 (mark), R102, R101, C64, C45 and C65 are selected. The hack frequency is factory set to 1600 Hz and the space frequency is factory set to 1000 Hz.

The HF/VHF switch (SW 3) is set OUT for VHF and IN for HF.

---

**WARNING:** Never remove or insert an IC with power on.

Your MFJ TNC 2 is a complex piece of electronic equipment. Servicing must be approached in a logical manner. The best preparation for troubleshooting is to study the detailed hardware description in Chapter 7. While it is not possible to present all possible problems, symptoms and probable cures, this section of the manual will give direction to troubleshooting based on our experience.

**General Tests**

In most cases we have found that careful visual inspection combined with simple measurements generally reveals the problem. The most useful single instrument for troubleshooting is a good DVM that can read AC and DC volts, and can non-destructively test resistance while the ICs are still in their sockets.

While a number of checks may be made without the aid of an oscilloscope, you will need one to check signals at various points on the board if you fail to locate the problem by visual means or with a meter. Be very careful about shorting pins on ICs when applying meter or scope probes to the board. If it is a good idea to attach a secure ground lead to the meter or scope, one that won't accidentally short across components on the board. A good place to pick up this ground is on the threads of the screw that mounts regulator Q1 to the printed-circuit board.

**Step 1: Power Supply**

The first thing to check in any malfunction is the power supply. Check the power supply levels at the outputs of the voltage regulators (Q2 and Q3) as well as the output of the inverter (Q2). Are they close to their nominal values? Do all the ICs in the suspected area have the proper voltage on their power pins? Is there excessive ripple in any of the DC voltage lines? If so, check the regulator and associated components, working backwards toward the input power switch. If the voltage is low, in conjunction with a hot regulator, suspect a short circuit on the board.
If the problem is in the -5 volt supply, work backwards from Q2's collector (also at U6 pin 1), which should be -5 volts regulated, to the junction of C9 and CR2 (-V unregulated). If no voltage appears at -V, then Q2 or a related component may be at fault. Verify that U2 is oscillating by looking at the wave form at U2 pin 5. If V is more negative than -7 volts (i.e., normal), but the -5 volt regulated voltage is wrong, check the negative regulator components U3, G2, R5, R6, R7, R8, R9, C16, C18, C11, and C15. If both -V and the -5 volt regulated voltage are wrong, look for shorts.

Step 3: Obvious Problems

Look for any unusual physical symptoms. Have you installed any IC's the wrong way? This is almost guaranteed to ruin the IC and produce a high current through it, detectable by the IC's high temperature. Are any components discolored? Does something smell burnt? Do any of the parts seem excessively warm? If you have never had your fingers on operating digital integrated circuits before you may erroneously conclude they are too hot when they are actually operating normally. In general their normal temperature will be well below the boiling point of water, but you may not want to keep your finger on them very long.

Step 4: Assembly Problems

Carefully inspect the PC board and component installation. Are any cold solder joints present? Is a metal screw shorting to the board anywhere? Are all IC's firmly seated in their sockets? Are any IC leads tucked under the chip or otherwise bent in such a manner that they aren't making proper contact with the IC socket? (This is a very common error, accounting for most problems!)

Inspect the diodes and electrolytic capacitors for proper installation. Are the diode cathodes pointing the correct way? Are the negative ends of the electrolytic capacitors pointing the correct way?

Step 4: Cabling Problems

Inspect the interconnection cabling. Does it work on another circuit? Has the radio and/or terminal been successfully used on other pin 12? Are all the connections tight? Has the cable frayed or broken?

Specific Symptoms

While the steps described above may seem obvious, careful inspection often will point to the problem or give significant clues as to the probable area of the TNC most suspect. After the above inspection has been completed and apparent problems dealt with, it is time to proceed to more specific analysis.

Symptom: TNC appears dead

If the TNC powers up with the PWR, STA, and CON LEDs lit, followed by STA and CON extinguishing a second or so later, the processor is working and the software is probably working correctly. You should suspect the terminal port at this point. Check all connections and verify the logic levels according to the terminal interface troubleshooting section in this chapter.

Oscillator and Reset Circuits

If no LEDs wink during the reset cycle the problem may be more serious. Check to see that the crystal oscillator is working and that an 'M1' signal (154 KHz square wave, 0 to +5 volts) is coming from U22 pin 27. The crystal oscillator input to the processor (U22) is pin 6. The input clock should be a (possibly distorted) square wave signal. Verify that the clock input at pin 6 of U22 is running at the correct frequency (near 2.4570 MHz).

Verify that the battery backed-up RAM protection circuit, composed of C4, U14 and associated devices, is going to +5 volts at U14 pin 6 after input power is applied. This signal enables normal operation of U24 and U25. There should be a logical low on the output of U7 pin 12 coincident with the application of power and lasting for a few hundred milliseconds. Without this RS35 signal, the E80 probably won't start up properly.

Digital Logic Lines

Remember that all the logic circuits operate at standard TTL levels (a "low" is less than +0.8 V and a "high" is greater than +2.4 volts), and all digital inputs and outputs switch between these two levels. Thus, if you see logic signals switching between 0 and, say, 1 volt, you can be sure there is a problem (usually a short). On the other hand, do not mistake switching transients on digital logic lines for improper operation -- these show up as ringing and other distortions.

Verify that there is activity on the control bus READ and
WRITE lines, the 3 CHIP-ENABLE lines on the memories (U23, 25, pins 28), the IOREQ line on U21 pin 36, and the INT line on pin 16. Each of these lines should show activity, and if any line is quiet this is a sign of trouble.

Logic lines that show no activity may often be traced to a short on the PC board, probably due to a solder splash or bridge.

Address and data line shorts may also show up as lack of activity on the control bus lines, especially the chip selects. Check each of the 16 address and 8 data lines for activity. Any lines showing a lack of activity are not operating properly.

If you suspect problems with address or data lines, try removing all the memory chips. Each address and data line will now show a distinct pattern. The address lines should be (possibly distorted) square waves whose periods increase by a factor of two on successive lines as you step line by line from A0 to A15.

If you decide to use an ohmmeter to check for shorts lines, use a low voltage/low current test instrument. (Most modern DMMs are fine for this.) If in doubt, remove any ICs connected to the lines you are measuring. If you suspect a short, check the high density areas of the PC board for the problem. In most cases the short will be found there. It is very unlikely that the PC board itself will have a short, as every board shipped by NVU has been electrically tested for shorts and opens on a commercial "bad-of-nails" board tester prior to acceptance by NVU.

Symptom: Modem won't calibrate or key transmitter.

Double check the placement of parts on each DIP header assembly, measuring resistor values and checking for shorts between adjacent components and for shorted capacitors. Calibration of the demodulator's 1700 Hz tone and the modulator's 1200 Hz and 2200 Hz tones is done in software by setting the specified device to generate the frequency in question and routing the signal to U21 pin 22 where it causes interrupts to the 586 microprocessor. The software calibration routine then examines the ratio between this interrupt rate and a fixed 1200 Hz interrupt generated by a 468 Hz square wave at U21 pin 29, then sets the 586 and COM LEDs appropriately. In the case of the 1700 Hz tone, it is first passed through US, acting as a frequency doubling Schmitt trigger. The input signal to the Schmitt trigger is a modified sawtooth wave. In the case of the modulator, the signal presented to U21 pin 22 comes directly from U16 pin 11, and should be a reasonable square wave.

Troubleshooting improper calibration amounts to checking for proper signals at U21 and following up any improper signal. If the calibration signal is present, but you cannot successfully calibrate the frequency, you may have an out-of-spec frequency determining component. Check the values of the appropriate passive components. Also, check the placement of jumpers. As a last resort, check the signal frequency with a frequency counter. Note that, due to frequency jitter while calibrating the demodulator, the 586 and COM LEDs may blink somewhat even when the 1700 Hz demodulator frequency is correct.

If the transmitter doesn't key, the problem may be in the watchdog timer, U7, or the PPT transistor, Q18. Check especially for an open timing capacitor C31 or a bad solder connection associated with R83 in header U15.

Symptom: Unacceptable transmitted or received packets

If no one seems able to decode your packet transmissions, it is often the case that your transmitter is being overdriven. The solution is to reduce the drive level via trimpot R76. Note that direct connection to typical microphone inputs requires R76 to be tuned to near the minimum signal position to produce sufficiently low signal levels.

If you are having problems hearing other stations, the demodulator circuitry associated with U20 may be at fault. Check the center frequency of the VCO in U20 using the 1700 Hz calibration procedure. Working in the direction of flow of the input signal from the radio, verify that it is being passed through to pin 2 of U20, the input pin. The signal there should be above 50 mV and below 5 V peak-to-peak for proper operation of the demodulator. It should be relatively clean, although a few tens of millivolts of noise is normal, and the signal amplitude should not change by more than about 25% between high and low tones.

Note: Make sure that JNP B is on.

Terminal Interface Troubleshooting

If you can't get the TNC to sign on and accept data from your terminal or computer, the problem may be in the RS-232C interface. The troubleshooting guide below is provided as an aid to help in resolving problems that may be related to the RS-232C port.
Symptom: The THC won't sign on to the terminal.

If you find that the THC won't send data to your terminal, one of the first things to do is to verify that the DTR line at pin 20 of J1 is not being held low. If the software flow control option is disabled, the THC will not send data to the terminal unless its DTR is asserted. If the terminal does not implement the DTR/CTS protocol, the DTR/CTS lines (pins 28 and 5 on J1) should remain unconnected.

Verify that the voltages on the THC are correct. If the THC is in otherwise good condition, check the following pins of the 210, U21 (25440). Pin 23 should be TTL low (between 0 and +0.8 volts). If this voltage is incorrect, check the voltage at U9 pin 3 and verify that it is greater than +5 volts. If this voltage is correct, U9 or the traces around it may be bad. If this is not the problem, disconnect the terminal and check it again. If this doesn't help, U9, R39 or R42 may be at fault.

If the above checks are OK, observe pin 26 of U21 with an oscilloscope and cycle the power switch on the THC. Transitions on this pin shortly after reset indicate that the THC is sending data. Verify that transitions are also present on U3 pin 1. If these tests fail, the fault could be with U13, R35, R30, U21, J1, the attached cable or faulty soldering (shorts, cold joints, etc.)

Symptom: The THC appears to be signing on but only gibberish is printed on the terminal.

This indicates that some combination of the data rate (baud rate), parity option, or number of start and stop bits are not set the same at the THC and at the terminal. If possible, set your terminal to 300 baud. Also verify that the terminal is set for seven data bits, space parity, and 1 stop bit. These are the default settings stored in EPROM. For 300 baud, set DIP switch 1 ON (up) and set switches 2 through 8 OFF (down). Be sure only one of these 5 switches is up! Perform a hard reset by the power switch OFF then ON (out then in). The sign on message should appear.

If the THC still prints gibberish, verify that the terminal is set to 300 baud and do a power off then on cycle on both the THC and terminal. If the message still fails to appear, try troubleshooting with an oscilloscope, looking first at the TXD pin (pin 26) of U21 (26448), then at the TXE baud rate clock (4800 Hz at 300 baud) on pin 27 of U21.

Symptom: The THC signs on OK but won't accept commands.

If the THC signs on OK, use an oscilloscope to verify that data is present on U21 pin 28 and U9 pin 1 when you strike a key on your terminal. If not, the data isn't getting from your terminal to the THC. Check J1, the cable and U9 again. Finally, be sure that your terminal actually uses levels less than -3 volts and greater than +3 volts for signal levels. 5 and +5 volts may not work, especially if they are being used direct from a computer. For example, the Commodore 64 uses TTL levels that will work only if they are inverted! This is because RS-232C logic polarity definitions are opposite those of TTL.

Symptom: The THC appears to have "lock-up" i.e. not responding to any commands.

This may be due to some invalid parameters having been stored in the memory. Try turning the THC off and disconnect JWF 5 on the THC board. This will disconnect the memory back-up circuit and allow the memory to be erased. Reinstall JWF 5 after about 30 seconds and try operating again.
EXPLANATION OF PROTOCOL

The material in this chapter is intended to provide an overview of the protocol used to transmit data by the TNC software. References are given to more detailed information required by those wishing to implement these protocols on other hardware. The material presented below is somewhat tutorial in nature for those who have not had previous exposure to layered network protocols, but it presumes some knowledge of general communications hardware and software. Persons already well versed in networking may want to skip this chapter and refer to the primary defining document, Amateur Packet-Radio Link-Layer Protocol, APR-25 Version 2.4, available from the APRS, 215 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 ($8.00 US, postpaid in the United States as of this writing).

The APRS TNC hardware and software architecture is organized in accordance with the International Standards Organization (ISO) layered network model. The model describes seven levels and is officially known as the ISO Reference Model of Open Systems Interconnection, or simply the ISO Model. The model and many other interesting topics are discussed in Computer Networks by Andrew S. Tanenbaum.

The ISO model provides for layered processes, each supplying a set of services to a higher level process. The APRS TNC currently implements the first two layers, the Physical layer and the Data Link layer.

PHYSICAL LAYER

The duty of the Physical Layer, layer one, is to provide for the transmission and reception of data at the bit level. It is concerned only with how each bit is physically transmitted, i.e., voltages on a hardware line or modem tones on phone or RF links.

The physical layer of the APRS TNC is described in Chapter 7, Hardware. It is compatible with the various TNCs currently available to radio amateurs. The actual modem interface is compatible with the Bell 202 standard which is similar to the CCITT V.22 standard. Any other hardware device which is compatible with the Bell 202 standard should...
be compatible with the MVJ THC, at least at level one of the ISO reference model.

Data Link Layer

The duty of the Data Link layer is to supply an error-free stream of data to higher levels. Since level one simply passes any bits received to level two and is unaware of the content or underlying structure of the data, transmission errors are not detectable at level one. Level two carries the responsibility of detecting and rejecting bad data, retransmitting rejected data, and detecting the reception of duplicate data.

Level two accomplishes this task by partitioning data to be transferred by level one into individual frames, each with its own error detection field and frame identification fields. The MVJ THC supports two versions of a level-two layer, AX.25 version 1.8 and AX.25 version 2.8. Each of these protocols is based on HDLC, the High-Level Data Link Control protocol defined by the ISO.

HDLC Frames

Exact knowledge of the format of HDLC frames has been made largely unnecessary by the advent of LEI and VLSI communications chips which interface directly with the level one hardware. The level two software need only supply data to fill in various fields and the chip takes care of the rest. For completeness however, an HDLC frame looks like this:

| FLAG | ADDRESS | CONTROL | PID & DATA | FCS | FLAG |

FLAG A unique bit sequence (01111110) used to detect frame boundaries. A technique called "bit stuffing" is used to keep all other parts of the frame from looking like a flag.

ADDRESS A field normally specifying the destination address. AX.25 uses a minimum of 14 bytes and a maximum of 78 bytes containing the actual call signs of the source, destination, and optionally up to eight digipeaters.

CONTROL A byte which identifies the frame type. In the AX.25 protocol, the control field may include frame numbers in one or two 3-bit fields.

PID A Protocol Identification byte appears as the first byte of the HDLC DATA field in AX.25 Level Two information frames, and identifies which Level 3 protocol is implemented, if any. In the case where no Level 3 protocol is implemented, PID = $00.

DATA This field contains the actual information to be transferred. This field need not be present. Most frames used only for link control do not have data fields.

FCS Frame Check Sequence, a 16-bit error detection field.

The communications chip recognizes the opening and closing flags and passes the address, control, and data (including PID) fields to the software. The FCS field is a Frame Check Sequence computed by the transmitting chip and sent with the frame. The receiving chip recomputes the FCS based on the data received and rejects any frames in which the received FCS does not match the computed FCS. There is virtually no chance of an undetected bad frame using this method. This satisfies the level two task of bad data detection.

The communications chip used in the MVJ THC 2 is a Zilog Z8400 SIU operating in conjunction with a two-chip "state machine" which is used to recover the data clock. The transmitted data is encoded in NRZI form, which encodes a '1' data bit as a transition in the encoded bit stream and a '0' data bit as no transition. This, in combination with the "bit-stuffing" which ensures that no more than five '1's occur in a row except when FLAG bytes are being transmitted, guarantees that a logic level transition occurs at least once every 5 bit times. These frequent transitions allow the receiver to synchronize its clock with the transmitter. Other chips which are compatible with the Z8400 SIU are the Western Digital 1922/1935 (used on the TAPR THC), the ARK PKT-1, the Heathkit HQ-4044, etc.), the Intel 8273 (used on the WADOS and Ashby THCs) and the Zilog 8538 (used on the Xerox 828 PAP adapter).

While the HDLC format supplied by the communications chips is used by the AX.25 protocol, there are several other Layer Two concerns. These are duplicate frame detection, connection and disconnection of the level two layers on different TNM, and buffer overrun avoidance. The AX.25 protocol solves these problems as described below.

AX.25 Level Two

AX.25 is based on the Balanced Link Access Procedure (BALP) of the CCITT X.25 standard. ALAP in turn conforms to the HDLC standard. Two extensions are made to ALAP in AX.25. These are the extended address field, and the unnumbered
information (UI) frame. In LAPB, addresses are limited to eight bits, while AX.25 uses from 112 to 568 bits, containing the originator’s call sign, the destination call sign, and an optional list of one to eight digit repeater (simplex digital repeater) call signs.

The UI frame is used to send information bypassing the normal flow control and acknowledgment protocol. The UI frame is not acknowledged but can be transmitted at layer two without fear of disturbing higher layers. It is used for beacon frames, for automatic identification packets, and for sending information frames when the TNC is not connected to another TNC, e.g., CU and ORT activities.

The exact specifications for AX.25 are supplied in the ARRL publication Amateur Packet Radio Link Layer Protocol, AX.25 Version 2.0. The TAPP Implementation adheres to this standard for AX.25 version 2.0. The implementation of version 1.8 is almost identical to the TAPP TNC 1 version of AX.25 protocol in software releases 1.x. This provides compatibility with the majority of Amateur Packet Radio stations.

The following table lists the frame types used by AX.25 and describes their purpose. This material is provided to give a general understanding of the protocol, and is not intended to replace the published specification. The byte fields are given as they appear in memory after data is received, i.e., the high order bit is at the left and the low order bit is at the right. This is also the format of the display provided by the TRACE command. Some tests, including the AX.25 protocol specification, list the bits in the order in which they are transmitted, which is low order bit first.

The control bytes are presented in hex with "x" used to indicate four bits which depend on the acknowledge functions the packet is performing. Usually "x" is a frame number. Frame numbers fit into three bits and are used to ensure that frames are received in order and that no frames are missed. Since only three bits are available, the frame number is counted modulo 8. This is why the MAXFRAMES parameter has a ceiling of 7; no more than seven frames can be "in flight" (transmitted but unacknowledged) at one time. A short description of the use of the frames is given after the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Abbrev</th>
<th>Frame Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>Receive Ready</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>RNR</td>
<td>Receive Not Ready</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>BNR</td>
<td>Reject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>UI</td>
<td>Unnumbered Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>DH</td>
<td>Disconnected mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>SABM</td>
<td>Connect request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>UDISC</td>
<td>Disconnect request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>UA</td>
<td>Unnumbered Acknowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>FBNR</td>
<td>Frame reject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>even</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Any frame ending in an even number (including 2, 6, and 8) is an information frame.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This and UI frames are the only frame types containing user data. The control byte contains this frame’s number and the number of the next frame expected to be received from the other end of the link.

RR Usually used to acknowledge receipt of an I frame. The RR function can also be performed by sending an I frame with an updated "expected next frame number" field.

SABM Set Asynchronous Balanced Mode - initiates a connect.

SABM Set Asynchronous Balanced Mode - initiates a connect.

DISC Initiates a disconnect.

FBNR Sent when an abnormal condition occurs, i.e., the control byte received is undefined or not proper protocol at the time received.
UI An I frame without a frame number. It is not acknowledged.

Channel Use and Timing Functions

The following discussions mention timing parameters which are set by various commands. These timing functions are also discussed in Chapter 5.

An important part of any packet radio protocol is the means by which many stations make efficient use of an RF channel, achieving maximum throughput with minimum interference. The basis for this time domain multiplexing is Carrier-Sensed Multiple Access (CSMA) with collision detection and collision avoidance.

CSMA means simply that (as every Amateur knows) no station will transmit if the frequency is in use. The TNC continually monitors the presence of an audio carrier on frequency and transmits only if there is no carrier. (The RF carrier is not normally detected; however, an input is available on the TNC 2 radio interface connector to allow such an input.) In order to make detection of a busy channel more reliable, the TNC sends an audio signal (continuously flagged) any time the transmitter is keyed and a packet is not being sent, as during the transmitter keyup delay (PKDELAY), or while a slow audio repeater is being keyed (ASDELAY).

By itself, CSMA is not enough to insure a minimum, or even low, interference rate, due to the likelihood of simultaneous keyups by two or more stations. This is where collision detection and collision avoidance come in. The TNC detects a collision by the absence of an ACK from the station it is sending to. The receiving station does not acknowledge the frame that suffered the collision, since either the FCS was incorrect or the packet was not heard. There are other possible reasons for non-receipt of the packet, but the TNC's response is based on the assumption of a collision.

After transmitting a packet, the TNC waits a "reasonable" length of time (PKACK) for an acknowledgment. "Reasonable" is determined by the link activity, frame length, whether the packet is being digipeated, and other time-related factors. If no ACK is received, the packet must be re-sent. If the unACKed frame was lost due to a collision, the assumption is that there is at least one other packet station out there that also lost a frame and will probably have exactly the same criterion for deciding when to retry the transmission as this station is using.

In order to avoid a second collision, the collision avoidance protocol calls for the stations retrying transmissions to wait a random time interval after hearing the frequency become clear before they key their transmitters. There must be enough different random wait times to provide a reasonable chance of two or more stations selecting different values. The difference between adjacent time values must be similar to the keyup time delay of typical stations on the frequency. This is the time lapse after a station keys its transmitter before other stations detect its presence on the channel, and is a function of the keying circuitry of the transmitter and the signal detection circuitry of the receiver. We have chosen the random time to be a multiple (8-15) of the transmitting station's keyup delay (TXDELAY). This is reasonable if one's own keyup delay is similar to that of other stations on the channel.

One other factor must be taken into consideration in optimizing data throughput. The currently implemented link protocols provide for relaying (digipeating) of packets. The acknowledgment procedure for such packets is that the relay station simply repeats packets without acknowledgment to the sending station. The receiving station sends its ACK back through the same digipeaters to the originating station. Since the digipeated packets are not acknowledged to the digipeater, an unsuccessful transmission must be retried from scratch by the originating station. In order to help alleviate the congestion of the frequency that tends to result when digipeated packets suffer collisions, the digipeater is given first shot at the frequency every time it becomes clear. Other stations, instead of transmitting as soon as they hear the channel clear, must wait a short time (DWAIT). This restriction applies to all stations except the digipeater, which is permitted to transmit relayed packets immediately. This prevents digipeated packets from suffering collisions except on transmission by the originating station.

A special time delay (KEEPSIZE) is used as the minimum wait time prior to transmitting acknowledgment frames, to prevent TNCs accepting data at high speed from the asynchronous port from colliding with acknowledgment frames when fewer than MAXFRAME packets are outstanding. The receiving TNC will wait long enough before sending the ACK so that it will hear the data packet which would have caused the collision, thus avoiding a fairly frequent source of delay in versions of AX.25 prior to 2.8.

Channel Flow Control

Flow control of data through the link is determined by the rate at which data is being supplied to a sending TNC and accepted from a receiving TNC.
A TNC receiving data from the link will send an ERR when the next I frame successfully received will not fit into the buffer for output to the serial port.

Whenever a TNC transmitting data received from the serial port over the link runs out of temporary buffer space, the serial port will be halted by an RSPF character or CT1 signal. In the TNC 2 implementation this happens whenever there are 3 packets built and less than 218 characters left in the buffer for input from the serial port.

When the TNC receiving data from the link clears out its buffers, it sends an R8 to the transmitting TNC. In order to guard against the possibility of the R8 being lost and the link becoming permanently locked, the transmitting TNC will periodically re-transmit the packet that provoked the ERR. The receiving TNC will continue to respond with ERR until it can accept the packet.


Esar Integrated Systems, "Frame-Locked Loop Data Book," Esar Applications Note AN-81, P. O. Box 62229, Sunnyvale, CA 94086, 1981.


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FULL 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. warrants to the original owner of this product, if manufactured by MFJ Enterprises, Inc. and purchased from an authorized dealer or directly from MFJ Enterprises, Inc., to be free of defects in material and workmanship for a period of 12 months from date of purchase provided the following terms of this warranty are satisfied:

1. The purchaser must retain the dated proof-of-purchase (bill of sale, cancelled check, credit card or money order receipt, etc.) describing the product to establish the validity of warranty claim and must submit the original or a machine-reproduction of such proof-of-purchase to MFJ Enterprises, Inc. at the time of warranty service. MFJ Enterprises, Inc. shall have the discretion to deny warranty without dated proof-of-purchase. Any evidence of alteration, erasure, or forgery of proof-of-purchase shall be cause to void any and all warranty terms immediately.

2. MFJ Enterprises, Inc. agrees to repair or replace at MFJ’s option without charge to the original owner any defective product provided the product is returned postage prepaid to MFJ Enterprises, Inc. with a personal check, cashier’s check or money order for $4.00 covering postage and handling.

3. MFJ Enterprises, Inc. will supply replacement parts free of charge for any MFJ product under warranty upon request. A dated proof-of-purchase and a $4.00 personal check, cashier’s check or money order must be provided to cover postage and handling.

4. This warranty is NOT void for owners who attempt to repair defective units. Technical consultation is available by calling (601) 323-6869.

5. This warranty does not apply to kits sold or manufactured by MFJ Enterprises, Inc.

6. Wired and tested PC board products are covered by this warranty provided only the wired and tested PC board is returned. Wired and tested PC boards installed in the owner’s cabinet or connected to switches, jacks, cables etc. sent to MFJ Enterprises, Inc. will be returned at the owner’s expense un-repaired.

7. Under no circumstances is MFJ Enterprises, Inc. liable for consequential damages to person or property by the use of any MFJ product.

8. Out-of-warranty Service: MFJ Enterprises, Inc. will repair any out-of-warranty product provided the unit is delivered prepaid. All charges will be shipped COD to the owner.

9. This warranty is given in lieu of any other warranty express or implied.

10. MFJ Enterprises, Inc. reserves the right to make changes or improvement in design or manufacture without incurring any obligation to install such changes upon any of the products previously manufactured.

11. All MFJ products to be serviced in-warranty or out-of-warranty should be addressed to MFJ Enterprises, Inc., 921A Louisvile Road, Starkville, Mississippi 39759, USA and must be accompanied by a letter describing the problem in detail along with a copy of your dated proof-of-purchase.

12. This warranty gives you specific rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.