What Tytera Didn't Tell Us (Or We Couldn't Decipher)
About the MD-2017

The MD-2017 DMR VHF-UHF handheld is a very nice radio, but documentation is not Tytera's strong suite. Here are some random clarifications that may make your first day with the radio easier:

1. The N-S-E-W navigation control in the center of the radio seems to be stuck and won't move. That's OK. The control is operated by swiping left/right or up/down on the white LED in the center, just like turning on your iPhone. Somewhere I saw it referred to as a "trackball."

2. The stock antenna operates more like a dummy load. You'll want to get another one that **actually radiates.** Think Comet or Diamond, with a male SMA connector.

3. Each zone has a capacity for 32 channels, not just 16. If you import an MD-380 codeplug, all the channels go into the A side of the zone, and display on the top frequency display. By default, 440 frequencies go in A, and VHF frequencies go in B (bottom display). This can be changed in the codeplug editor.

4. If you set up the red button on the top to be a battery monitor, pressing it will not cause any change in the display. It causes the radio to beep three times if the battery is fully charged, one or two times for less than a full charge. Less than that it won't beep at all! That's why it doesn't seem to do anything. When I first programmed mine, the battery had only about a 20% charge.

5. To put the radio in the mode to accept new firmware, turn it off, connect the programming cable, hold down the PTT and the red button on top, then turn on the radio. Release the buttons when you see the top LED flash a slow red-green pattern. Then upload the firmware into the radio.

6. It's a synthesized radio with a wide front end. When I first programmed in our favorite 145.210 repeater, the squelch would blow after the repeater's carrier cut off, even with the squelch set tight. I changed the RX reference frequency in the channel information section of the codeplug from high to low. This moved the birdie off the RX frequency and allowed it to squelch. Then to be doubly sure, I set CTCSS on RX to 110.9. Much better, and no squelch tail heard.

7. Unlike the MD-380, the scan function works on the MD-2017. But every time you touch a button, you must turn it back on.

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