Explorer 725 / 705

VHF Marine Radio

Quickstart Guide

NORTHSTAR

www.northstarnav.com

This Quickstart Guide is to be used with the Northstar Explorer 721 VHF Radio Installation and Operation Manual. The Explorer 721 and Explorer 725 function identically except for where noted in this QSG.

Consult the Installation and Operation Manual for further information on the options described in this Quickstart Guide, and for information on other options; including radio setup and different DSC call types and options, troubleshooting, and channel charts.

FCC Statement

Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a normal installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful 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:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an output on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced technician for help.
- A shielded cable must be used when connecting a peripheral to the serial ports.

Industry Canada

Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

It is the owner's sole responsibility to install and use the instrument in such a manner that will not cause accidents, personal injury or property damage.

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Check out your Explorer 725/705 model

There are slight variations in the keys between the Explorer 725US and 725EU models, and some features are not available on both models.

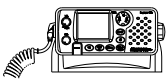
An optional handset can also be purchased and used with your Explorer 725. There are two versions - the Northstar 705US handset (for use with the Northstar 725US model) and the Northstar 705EU handset (for use with the Northstar 725EU model).

This Quickstart Guide covers BOTH models of the Explorer 725, with or without the optional handsets.

Northstar Explorer 725US pictured with 705US optional handset

Northstar Explorer 725EU pictured with 705EU optional handset

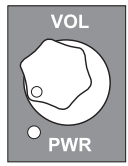
Turn the unit ON/OFF and adjust the volume



Base Unit

1 To turn the base unit ON, turn the VOL knob clockwise. Turn counter-clockwise to turn the base OFF.

2 Continue to turn until a comfortable volume is reached on the base speaker.



Optional Handset

1. Ensure the handset is fully charged, and the base unit is turned ON.
2. To turn the handset ON, press and hold the PWR button. To turn the handset OFF, press and hold again until the unit turns off.
3. When turned on, the handset will search for the base unit and establish the wireless link. This should take only a few seconds.
4. Adjust the volume with the VOL ▲ and ▼ keys on the righthand side of the handset.

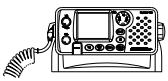
   Hold down VOL ▲ or ▼ to rapidly increase or decrease the volume or press quickly to step through the 8 different volume levels.

   This will not change the volume on the base unit speaker.

NOTE: The optional Handset functions with the base unit. It can not operate on it's own. Ensure the base unit is turned ON when using the handset.

NOTE - FIRST TIME USE: the handset must first be Subscribed to the 725 base unit - this function only needs to be performed once. See "Subscribing the Handset to the Base unit" section for details.

Adjust the Squelch



Base Unit

1. Turn the SQL knob fully counterclockwise so that random noise is heard.
2. Turn SQL slowly clockwise until the random noise disappears.
3. Make another 1/4 turn clockwise for best reception in normal open sea conditions.

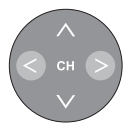
In areas of high noise (eg close to large cities) reception may improve if sensitivity is reduced. Try turning SQL slowly clockwise or use the LOCAL setting (see the Installation and Operation Manual).

Optional Handset

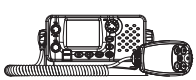
Adjust the squelch with the ◀ and ▶ keys on the handset.

Hold down ◀ or ▶ to rapidly increase or decrease the squelch or press quickly to step through the 8 different squelch levels. The squelch setting on the base unit will temporarily change to match.

When you put the handset back ON hook, the base unit squelch setting takes precedence again.



Enter Data and Correct Errors



721US Base Unit and Microphone

Only 4 menu items can be displayed on the base unit LCD at any one time. Press CH ⊕ or CH ⊖ to scroll through a menu listing.

Press ESC to return to the previous menu screen without saving changes OR press the rotary knob to confirm changes.

To enter data, press CH ⊕ or CH ⊖ to step through the alphabet and numbers. Hold down CH ⊕ or CH ⊖ to scroll rapidly.

You can also use the rotary knob to step through the alphabet and numbers, then press the knob to confirm each selection.

To correct errors, press CH ⊖ then select the < backup character on the LCD. Press the rotary knob to backup one space at a time.

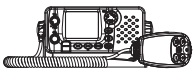
Optional Handset

Only 4 menu items can be displayed on the handset LCD at any one time. Press ▲ or ▼ to scroll through a menu listing.

Press ESC to return to the previous menu screen without saving changes OR press ENT to confirm changes.

Press ▲ or ▼ to step through the alphabet and numbers. Hold down ▲ or ▼ to scroll rapidly.

To correct errors, press ▼ then select the < backup character on the LCD. Press ENT to backup one space at a time.



721EU Base Unit and Microphone

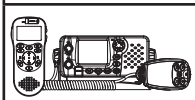
Enter Data using Alpha-mic (721EU only): To enter data, use the alpha-numeric keypad on the microphone to enter the channel numbers and names directly. Each key has functionality shown below.

Use the CLR key to backup and the ENT key to confirm, or just wait for the cursor to advance automatically to the next position when entering data (similar to mobile phone operation).

To correct data errors, press CH ⊖ then select the **<** backup character on the LCD. Press ENT to backup one space at a time.

705EU Microphone Key	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Normal and Menu Mode	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Edit Mode Push 1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Edit Mode Push 2	Space	-	A	D	G	J	M	P	T	W
Edit Mode Push 3	(	.	B	E	H	K	N	Q	U	X
Edit Mode Push 4	)	"	C	F	I	L	O	R	V	Y
Edit Mode Push 5	%	/	?	!	:	#	"	S	&	Z

Select the Radio Menu or the DSC Call Menu



Base Unit and Optional Handset

PRESS CALL MENU to show the DSC CALL Menu.

HOLD DOWN CALL MENU to show the Radio Menu.

CALL MENU

Set the Backlighting Levels

Base Unit

1. Hold down CALL MENU to show the Radio Menu.
2. Scroll through the menu listing to BACKLIGHT.
3. Press ENT or push the rotary knob.
4. Press CH ⊕ or CH ⊖ to select the desired backlight level. There are 8 levels.
5. Press ENT or push the rotary knob to store the setting.

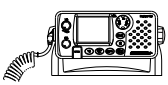
CALL MENU

Optional Handset

1. Hold down CALL MENU to show the Radio Menu.
2. Scroll through the menu listing to BACKLIGHT.
3. Press ENT.
4. Press ▲ or ▼ to select the desired backlight level. There are 8 levels.
5. Press ENT to store the setting.

MENU SELECT
BUDDY LIST
LOCAL/DIST
>BACKLIGHT

Set the Contrast Levels



Base Unit

1. Hold down CALL MENU to show the Radio Menu.
2. Scroll through the menu listing to CONTRAST.
3. Press ENT or push the rotary knob.
4. Press CH ⊕ or CH ⊖ to select the desired contrast level. There are 8 levels.
5. Press ENT or push the rotary knob to store the setting.

CALL MENU

Optional Handset

1. Hold down CALL MENU to show the Radio Menu.
2. Scroll through the menu listing to CONTRAST.
3. Press ENT.
4. Press ▲ or ▼ to select the desired contrast level.
   There are 8 levels.
5. Press ENT to store the setting.

MENU SELECT
LOCAL/DIST
BACKLIGHT
>CONTRAST

How the microphone and optional handset work together

Use the Intercom or Conference mode

Base Unit and Optional Handset

The Intercom mode works ONLY when one or two optional handset(s) are installed.

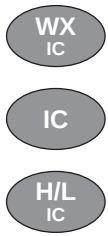
1 Hold down WX/IC or IC or H/L-IC to enter INTERCOM or CONFERENCE mode. Conference mode is only available when 2 handsets are connected, and is used to connect all 3 units together. This disables the radio receiver except for incoming DSC calls.

2 The intercom calls the other unit as detailed in the following table.

3 Press PTT when invited.

4 Press ESC to exit the INTERCOM mode, insert separate row for Handset Intercom mode.

5 For operation of the IC key see below.



Using the IC key

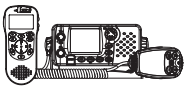
The function of these modes will vary depending on the number of VHF705 handsets connected:

- If no Handsets are connected, pressing the IC key will generate an error beep.
- If one handset is connected, pressing the IC key will enter Intercom mode.
- If two handsets are connected pressing the IC key the operation will be as follows:

IC Key	1st press	2nd press	3rd press	4th press
Main unit (MU)	Intercom with HS1	Intercom with HS2	Conference	Repeat cycle
1st handset (HS1)	Intercom with MU	Intercom with HS2	Conference	Repeat cycle
2nd handset (HS2)	Intercom with MU	Intercom with HS1	Conference	Repeat cycle

Note: in this mode you must press ENT key to select the mode

High and Low Power

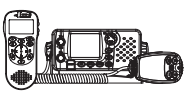


Microphone and Optional Handset

1 Press H/L or H/L IC to toggle between HI (High) and LO (Low) (25W or 1W) transmission power for the entire channel bank. A beep sounds and the selection is shown on the LCD.

2 If HI power cannot be used with a particular channel, the annunciator automatically goes to LO power. If you press H/L IC or H/L again, an error beep sounds.

Priority Channel



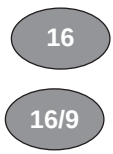
Base Unit, Microphone and Optional Handset

Channel 16 and HI power are automatically selected at power up.

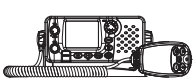
1 If you're on a working channel and want to check the priority channel for traffic, just press 16 or 16/9.

2 Press again to recall your working channel.

NOTE: On the 725US ONLY the priority channel can be set to Channel 09. To set this, just hold down 16/9 until Channel 09 appears on the LCD.



Channel Select



Base Unit and Microphone

The working channel is shown in BIG numbers on the LCD of the base unit.

To step through the channels one at a time, press CH ⊕ or CH ⊖ to display each channel.

To change channels rapidly, hold down CH ⊕ or CH ⊖ to scroll through the channels.

You can also use the rotary knob to select a channel.

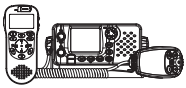
Optional Handset

The working channel is shown in BIG numbers on the LCD of the optional handset.

To step through the channels one at a time, press ⌃ or ⌄ to display each channel.

To change channels rapidly, hold down ⌃ or ⌄ on the optional handset to scroll through the channels.

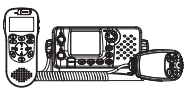
Select a Favorite Channel



Base Unit and Optional Handset

1 Press 3CH to toggle through each of the three favorite channels until the desired channel is shown.

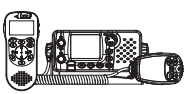
Store 3 Favorite Channels



Base Unit and Optional Handset

1 Select the channel.
2 Hold down 3CH to store this channel as your first favorite channel, CH1.
3 Repeat to store your second favorite channel as CH2.
4 Repeat again to store your third favorite channel as CH3.

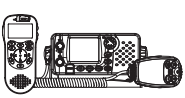
Scan/Stop Scanning a Favorite Channel



Base Unit and Optional Handset

1 Select the favorite channel.
2 Press 3CH then immediately press and release SCAN.
3 Press SCAN again to stop.

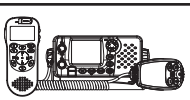
Scan all 3 Favorite Channels



Base Unit and Optional Handset

1 Press 3CH then immediately press and hold down SCAN.
2 Press SCAN again to stop.

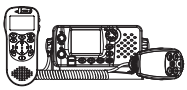
Delete a Favorite Channel



Base Unit and Optional Handset

1 Select the favorite channel.
2 Hold down 3CH until a confirmation message appears on the LCD.
3 Select YES to delete.

Select ALL SCAN mode



Base Unit and Optional Handset

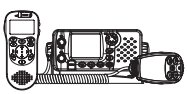
1 Hold down SCAN to start scanning all channels (and the priority channel every 1.5 seconds).
NOTE: In some European countries, scanning is not allowed.

When a signal is received, scanning stops at that channel and BUSY appears on the LCD. Press ENT to skip over an 'always busy' channel and resume scanning.

2 Press SCAN to stop at the current channel.

SCAN

Select the Channel Bank (725US ONLY)



Base Unit and Optional Handset

1 Hold down CALL MENU to show the Radio Menu.

2 Scroll through the menu listing to RADIO SETUP then press ENT or push the rotary knob.

3 The cursor is at UIC. Press ENT or push the rotary knob to display a choice of channel banks.

4 Press CH ⊕ or CH ⊖ to select the desired channel bank, then press ENT or push the rotary knob to confirm.

CALL MENU

RADIO SETUP
>UIC
CH NAME
RING VOLUME

Show the weather and fishing information

Base Unit

1 Press Info.

2 A histogram of the barometric pressure readings over the past 24 hours is shown on the base unit LCD, with a digital readout of the current temperature.

The Happy Fish indicator bars show the likelihood of good fishing.

The weather icon shows the weather forecast.

Info

Optional Handset

1 Hold down CALL MENU to show the Radio Menu.

2 The cursor is at INFO DATA. Press ENT to select this.

3 Select ON. Press ENT .

4 The current barometric pressure and temperature are shown as digital readouts.

SNR is shown when handset is OFF HOOK

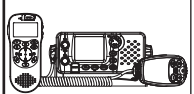
The Happy Fish indicator bars, when triggered, show the likelihood of good fishing.

The weather icon shows the weather forecast.

CALL MENU

MENU SELECT
>INFO DATA
BUDDY LIST
LOCAL/DIST

Make a call to an individual



Base Unit and Optional Handset

1 Press CALL MENU to show the DSC CALL Menu.

2 The cursor is at INDIVIDUAL. Press ENT or push the rotary knob.

3 Select either:
MANUAL NEW to call someone who's not in your buddy list, then enter their MMSI and press ENT or push the rotary knob.
or
scroll through the buddy list to find name of the buddy you want to call, then press ENT or push the rotary knob.

4 Select the working channel and press ENT or push the rotary knob.

5 Press ENT or push the rotary knob again to send the call. The call will be acknowledged when it is received and the working channel is automatically selected.

6 Press PTT to talk; release PTT to receive a reply.

NOTE: DSC calling is disabled until you enter a legal USER MMSI number. This also applies to ATIS inland waterway operation in European countries. See the Installation and Operation Manual to perform this ONCE-ONLY setup.

CALL MENU

DSC CALL
>INDIVIDUAL
LAST CALL
GROUP

INDIVIDUAL
>MANUAL NEW
BUDDY 1
BUDDY 2

Create your Buddy List

Base Unit and Optional Handset

You can store the names and MMSIs of 20 individuals in your buddy list.

1 Hold down CALL MENU to show the Radio Menu.

2 Scroll through the menu listing, if necessary, to BUDDY LIST.

3 Press ENT or push the rotary knob.

4 The cursor is at MANUAL NEW. Press ENT or push the rotary knob.

5 Enter the buddy name (maximum of 12 characters) and the MMSI.

6 Press ENT or push the rotary knob when you're finished, then press ENT or push the rotary knob again to store the new buddy name. The new buddy name appears immediately in your buddy list.

7 Repeat the procedure to store another buddy name.

CALL MENU

BUDDY LIST
>MANUAL NEW

>ENTER NAME
_____
ENTER MMSI
_____

NAME
123456789
>STORE?
CANCEL

Make a DSC Distress Call

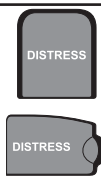
Base Unit and Optional Handset

1 Open the red DISTRESS cover.

If time is available to specify the nature of the distress, ***press and release*** *the DISTRESS key to show the categories. Scroll to your category then press* ENT or push the rotary knob.

2 Hold down the DISTRESS key for about 3 seconds until you see the message DISTRESS CALL SENT on the LCD.

3 The LCD flashes and loud beeps sound. The distress call is repeated automatically every few minutes until an acknowledgement is received or until you press ESC to cancel it.



>UNDEFINED
FIRE
FLOODING
COLLISION
GROUNDING
LISTING
SINKING
ADRIFT
ABANDONED
PIRACY
OVERBOARD

Receiving a Distress Acknowledgement from a coast station

1 The radio automatically cancels your distress call and tunes to CH16.

2 Press PTT to talk with the Coast Guard.

Receiving a Distress Call

An alert sounds and the Explorer 725 automatically tunes to CH16.

1 Press any key to stop the alert.

2 Make voice contact on CH16 and lend assistance if needed.

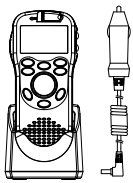
Position and time data and the vessel's MMSI are shown on the LCD, and the data is recorded in the DISTRESS CALL LOG.

Receiving a Distress Relay

1 An alert sounds. Press any key to stop the alert.

2 Maintain a listening watch on CH16 and standby to lend assistance.

Charging your 705 Handset



Optional Handset

To charge the handset:

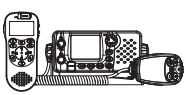
1. Connect 12VDC source to the handset charger cradle
2. Place the handset into the charger cradle. The handset display will show the text: "POWER ON CONNECTING" and then "CHARGING"
3. Leave on charge for at least 3 hours.
4. When the battery is fully charged, the display text will change to "BATTERY FULL"
5. The handset can remain in the charger.

To check the handset battery level:

1. Press and hold the ESC key
2. The LCD will display the battery level with 1 to 4 bars:

1=Needs charging; 2-3=normal operation; 4=Fully charged.

Subscribing the 705 handset to the 725 base unit



Base and Optional Handset

Subscribing the Handset to the Base unit:

1. Ensure the handset is fully charged
2. Turn the base unit ON
3. Select "Subscribe" on the base unit Radio Setup menu
4. Turn the handset ON; you must be within operational range of the base unit
5. The handset will display "Success", and then operate normally with the base unit.

To Un-Subscribe the Handset from the Base unit:

1. You may wish to un-subscribe a handset from your base unit to use on another base unit.
2. On the base unit, select "Handset", "Clear Code" and "Yes" from the setup menu.
3. After a few seconds, the handset will display "Search Host" and no longer be subscribed to the base unit.
4. The handset can subscribed to another base unit if needed.

For further information on these and other options, including radio setup and different DSC call types and options, troubleshooting, and channel charts, refer to the Northstar Explorer 721 VHF Radio Installation and Operation Manual.

FOR FURTHER CONTACT DETAILS GO TO:

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