

# TRIBUTE911™

## **Tribute 911** **Programming Manual**

Tribute911 Pager LLC  
2456 Fortune Drive  
Lexington, KY 40509  
859-299-9494  
859-299-9334 fax  
[www.tribute911pager.com](http://www.tribute911pager.com)

# INDEX

Introduction and capabilities	1.0
Preparation and decisions	2.0
Placing the pager in the program mode	2.1
Scanner Mode Programming	3.0
Frequency and CTCSS/DCS programming	3.1
Priority or Non-Priority selection	3.2
Pager Mode Programming	4.0
Frequency Programming (CTCSS/DCS disabled!)	4.1
Two-tone code Programming	4.2
Priority or Non-Priority selection	4.3
Page decode channel selection	4.4
Reminder selection	4.5
Fixed Alert selection	4.6
Voice Announcement Programming	5.0
Suggestions and gotchas	6.0

## **Introduction and Capabilities**

## **1.0**

The Tribute 911 pager was designed to specifically meet the needs of Emergency response personnel. The design incorporates the functions needed most, ease of operation and versatility never before available in a voice pager.

The Tribute 911 may be programmed in one of two modes of operation. It can be programmed as a Scanner only (no 2-tone decode) or as a Pager.

We refer to the Primary channel as the page channel selected in software. The Priority channel applies ONLY to Mode D operation and is selected by the switch next to the battery compartment. Modes A, B and C use the Primary channel only. This is true in Scanner OR Pager use.

In **Scanner mode** we can scan up to eight channels (within receiver bandwidth). CTCSS or DCS can also be programmed with each of the frequencies to help eliminate unwanted channel activity. Software selects the primary channel of operation and a rotary switch next to the battery compartment selects the scan priority channel. Priority or Non-priority scan is programmed by software only. The Mode switch (top of receiver) selects the pager mode of operation. The modes are as follows:

- In Mode A the pager will remain quiet until activity is detected on the primary channel (with correct CTCSS/DCS), then the pager will open the speaker and the voice traffic will be heard.
- In Mode B the pager acts the same as Mode A except the receiver will vibrate when there is activity on the primary channel.
- In Mode C the pager will open the receiver when any activity is detected on the primary channel.
- In Mode D the pager scans all programmed channels (Priority or Non-priority). Priority or Non-priority scan is programmed by software only. CTCSS/DCS is optional on any programmed frequency. The rotary switch next to the battery compartment selects the priority channel if Priority Scan is programmed.

In **Pager mode** we can input up to eight channels, six separate 2-tone decode codes in six different timing formats and still have scan operation (CTCSS/DCS is disabled). The primary channel is selected by software. Priority scan or non-priority scan is also selected by software. The Mode switch (top of receiver) selects the pager function. These function as follows:

- In Mode A the pager will remain quiet until a correct 2-tone sequence is detected (one of six available) on the primary channel, then the pager will alert, the recorder starts and the voice message will be heard.
- In Mode B the pager acts the same as Mode A except the alert is vibration.
- In Mode C the pager will open the receiver when any activity is detected on the primary channel. The alert and record functions work the same as Mode A.
- In Mode D the pager scans all programmed channels (Priority or Non-priority). Priority or Non-priority scan is programmed by software only. The rotary switch next to the battery compartment selects the priority channel.

In addition to these features the Tribute 911 can be custom programmed to provide Voice announcements for each of the four Mode function positions and each of the six 2-tone codes. If a voice announcement is not desired, a choice of ten different beep alerts are available

There is also a software check box selection for Fixed alert and message Reminder beep.

## **Preparations and decisions**

## **2.0**

There are decisions to be made and information to be gathered before attempting to program the Tribute 911. Here is a list of the choices and information needed:

- Scanner or Pager?
- A complete listing of all the frequencies (and CTCSS/DCS codes if Scanner is chosen).
- List of all the 2-tone codes and their timing formats are needed.
- Script of the Voice announcements to be recorded.
- Primary channel choice
- Reminder beep wanted?
- Fixed alert wanted?

## **Placing the pager in the program mode**

**2.1**

The Tribute 911 is placed in the program mode by holding down both the volume control and the Mode switch while turning on the pager. The LED will flash when the pager is in the program mode. Use the programming cable provided.

## **Scanner Mode Programming**

**3.0**

If the Tribute 911 is programmed as a Scanner, the 2-tone decode function is totally disabled. The primary channel is selected by software and the rotary switch next to the battery compartment selects the scan priority channel. Mode switch function is described in section 1.0. The Scanner mode is selected by checking the box next to Scanner Mode (older software may say Sub-tone).

### **Frequency and CTCSS/DCS programming**

**3.1**

There is only one programming screen in the software. Each frequency and CTCSS/DCS code is programmed in the middle section of the screen. Wide or Narrow band operation is also selected here for each individual channel. If NO frequency is entered you MUST enter .00000 in the frequency field.

### **Priority or Non-priority selection**

**3.2**

Check the Priority scan box if Priority scan is desired. Non-priority scan is selected by not checking the box. If priority scan is checked, the rotary switch next to the battery compartment selects the priority channel in Mode D. The primary channel is selected in the software by the box marked Page Channel. This is the channel the pager receives on when the function Mode switch is in the A,B or C position (see section 1.0 for function).

## **Pager Mode Programming**

**4.0**

In the Pager mode the CTCSS/DCS is deactivated. The function Mode switch operates as described in Section 1.0. The Pager mode is selected by checking the box next to Pager Mode (older software may say 2-Tone).

### **Frequency Programming (CTCSS/DCS disabled!)**

**4.1**

This is programmed the same as Section 3.1 except the CTCSS/DCS field will not function (a code can be programmed here, but it will not function). The primary channel is selected in the software by the box marked Page Channel. This is the channel the pager receives on when the function Mode switch is in the A,B or C position (see section 1.0 for function).

### **Two-tone code Programming**

**4.2**

The fields in the lower left of the programming screen are self-explanatory. Enter each of the 2-tone codes up to six. You must also enter the A and B tone timing. Standard format is normally 1.0 second for A and 3.0 for B. You would enter 1000 and 3000 respectively for this timing. Timing input allows you to change the 2-tone format as needed for your customer system. Up to six different 2-tone formats and codes. To the left of the tone frequency boxes is a choice of alert beeps. There are ten choices. Pick the ones like. Playback is only by paging the Tribute.

### **Priority or Non-Priority selection**

**4.3**

Check the Priority scan box if Priority scan is desired. Non-priority scan is selected by not checking the box. If priority scan is checked, the rotary switch next to the battery compartment selects the priority channel for Mode D operation. The primary channel is selected in the software by the box marked Page Channel. This is the channel the pager receives on when the function Mode switch is in the A,B or C position (see section 1.0 for function). In function Mode D operation the pager scans. In Priority scan the priority channel will decode a page with the correct 2-tone code on the Priority channel. In Non-priority scan there is no decode function. The user can select the Priority channel for mode D operation.

Note: The switch is labeled 0 thru 7. This is actually channel 1 thru 8. The 0=1, the 1=2, etc.

### **Page decode channel selection**

**4.4**

This is the primary channel as described above. The primary channel is selected in the software by the box marked Page Channel. This is the channel the pager receives on when the function Mode switch is in the A,B or C position (see section 1.0 for function). In function Mode D operation the pager scans. In Priority scan the priority channel will decode a page with the correct 2-tone code on the Priority channel. In Non-priority scan there is no decode function.

### **Reminder selection**

**4.5**

Check the box next to Reminder in the program screen to make the page provide a one-minute reminder beep

### **Fixed Alert selection**

**4.6**

Check the box next to Fixed Alert for full volume alert beeps.

## **Voice Announcement Programming**

**5.0**

A Voice or Custom announcement can be recorded in association with any of ten locations. A voice/custom announcement will replace the standard beep associated with older pagers, but a beep alert choice is still available. We can record a Voice Announcement or the program is also capable of accepting music or any audible alert desired. You are invited to be creative (but keep it clean!).

**NOTE: You will need a portable radio programmed on the Primary channel of your pager for Voice/Custom Announcement programming.**

Place the pager in the program mode as described in Section 2.1. The right side of the screen is the Voice Announcement programming section. Mode A through D refer to the function Mode select switch position (See Section 1.0 for Mode description). Tone 1 through 6 refers to the 2-tone codes programmed on the left of the screen. A different announcement can be programmed for each of these locations. Remember, the announcement replaces the beep! You do NOT get both! If the box next to each is not checked, the beep is

default (do not check at this time!).

**You should program ALL other field and write them to the Tribute BEFORE you attempt to program Voice or Custom announcements!**

The announcement is programmed as follows:

- Click on the location you want to announce. A box will pop up with “Record Now?”
- Get your script ready (or your audio source) and your portable in hand. Key the radio on your chosen primary frequency and click on “Yes”. A recording bar will appear on the screen. The recording is started!
- Keep the radio keyed all the time the recording bar is on (otherwise you will record squelch noise!). When the bar goes off, un-key the radio.
- If you have a programming cable with an earphone you can play back the recording by clicking on the circle next to the recording location. If you have the standard cable you will have to page the Tribute to make sure your recording worked (after you finish all steps below!).
- If you want to try again, just start over.
- Once you are satisfied with the recording, check the box next to that location.
- You can write the recordings to the pager after each recording or wait until all your recordings are completed and then do ONE write back to the pager (I usually do them one at a time).
- Sometimes it takes a couple tries to make the recording satisfactory. Patience is a big plus.

## **Suggestions and gotchas**

## **6.0**

There are a couple things you need to know that will make things easier the first time you program or use the Tribute 911.

The “SHIFT” field in the software is not normally changed. This would only be changed if you experience interference on any particular frequency you are using. The design of all synthesized equipment uses internal frequencies that may mix with a frequency you are attempting to use. Changing the “SHIFT” field changes these settings to eliminate possible mixes of this kind. It does NOT fix possible externally caused interference.

The Fixed Alert selection does NOT work on the Voice/Custom announcements. The volume controls them and they are not as loud as the beeps.

Voice/Custom announcements are NOT saved after you record to a pager. Each Tribute is separate. Everything else is saved to your computer or can be cloned to additional Tributes. We are working on this with our supplier.

I usually program a seldom-used channel temporarily as the Primary Channel for programming the Voice announcement (with a portable on that channel!) and then reprogram the Primary Channel back to the correct frequency after you have finished the Voice recordings. This will keep you from announcing to the world all your recordings. Most departments have a tactical channel that can be temporarily used for this purpose. You will not lose your voice recordings unless you uncheck the box next to the recording location.

By: Bill Kidd

3/17/2007