



BTECH BF-F8HP Pro Firmware Version V0.53 Release Notes

January 2026

This document provides information about changes to the BF-F8HP Pro radio firmware.

Revision/Update Information: V0.53

Revision/Update Information: This is a revised manual. Changes from the prior version of the manual are shown with a vertical bar in the margin.

<https://www.baofengtech.com/bf-f8hp-pro>

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Summary of modifications by version

This chapter lists fixes, new and changed features in firmware updates for the BF-F8HP Pro.

Notes: A CPS or CHIRP version newer than the firmware versions shown is required in order to use features introduced in the new firmware.

At the time of the V0.53 firmware release, an updated CPS with support for the new firmware features is not yet available. We expect to have the updated CPS available shortly. Writing to an updated radio with the 1.25m CPS will result in settings added in the new firmware version being overwritten if configured via the radio keypad.

If you are upgrading from radio firmware prior to V0.44, you should also read all of the sections describing changes made between the firmware your radio is currently running and V0.53.

1.1

Changes in firmware version V0.53

This section lists the changes to firmware V0.44 that are available in V0.53.

- *Correction:* Aircraft band frequencies now follow the expected 00 / 33 / 66 sequence instead of gradually going off-frequency as you step up or down with the arrow keys.
- *Correction:* Scanning will no longer stop on a channel transmitting without a CTCSS or DCS tone, if you have configured that channel to require a CTCSS or DCS tone.
- *Correction:* If a side key is programmed for Zone Select, pressing the key now selects zone 10 as expected.
- *Correction:* The "AM" indicator display now displays as expected when on air band frequencies and does not display when on other frequencies.
- *Correction:* If the radio is set to Autolock On **and** Lock On, if the user unlocks the radio and then powers it off, the radio will now power up locked when turned back on, as expected. Previously the radio would remain unlocked until the autolock timer activated.
- *Correction:* The aircraft band frequency range has been extended to 137 MHz, per the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization). Frequencies in the 136 MHz to 137 MHz range are now treated as AM and cannot be transmitted on.
- *Correction:* The 1.25m amateur band coverage now starts at 219 MHz to cover the FCC Part 97.303(e) secondary allocation.

Summary of modifications by version

- *Correction:* Dollar signs entered in channel and zone names from either the radio keypad or programming software now appear as dollar signs and not Yen symbols.
- *Correction:* When resetting the radio, the three predefined calling channels (2m, 1.25m and 70cm) no longer have an unexpected CTCSS tone of 100.0 applied.
- *Correction:* When the user pressed the key to begin DTMF dialing, the radio unit's ANI ID was automatically transmitted. This could cause problems with some repeater controllers due to unexpected ANI digits being transmitted. DTMF dialing now sends only digits entered by the user from the radio keypad and not the radio's ANI ID.
- *Enhancement:* The radio side key long press functions are now customizable, providing you with the ability to configure any four user selectable options (SK1 Short, SK1 Long, SK2 Short, SK2 Long). In previous firmware versions, a long press of SK1 triggered the *Alarm* function, and a long press of SK2 enabled the *Monitor* function. While those are still the defaults for those keys, they can be reassigned as shown in the following enhancement.
- *Enhancement:* The radio side key press options now include the *Monitor*, *Alarm*, and *Scan Edit* options.

Note: If you do not assign the *Alarm* or *Monitor* functions to a side key, there is no way to use the unassigned function(s).

- *Enhancement:* It is now possible to disable transmit when programming a memory channel from the radio keypad by entering a Tx Frequency of 0. Previously, this was only available when using the CPS or CHIRP programming software.
- *Enhancement:* It is now possible to skip a channel with continuous transmission ("rag chewing") or other unwanted traffic while scanning. You will need to have one of the side keys configured for *Scan Edit*. When the radio stops on a channel due to transmissions you are not interested in, press the appropriate side key. The radio will drop that channel from the scan and the dropped channel will not be scanned again until after the radio is turned off and back on again.

Notes: This feature is only available in Channel Mode, not VFO mode.

If you press the *Scan Edit* key, the current channel being scanned will be dropped, even if it is not currently receiving a transmission. Be sure you are on an unwanted channel before pressing the key to drop the channel from scanning.

- *Enhancement:* When the radio is not scanning, a side key configured for *Scan Edit* will allow you to enable or disable future scanning of the currently selected channel. This is a shortcut for selecting the desired channel and then using *Program Channel / Scan Ch. Edit* to change the scan setting.

Note: Changes made this way are permanent and remain across the radio being turned off and back on again, unlike temporarily dropping channels from scanning as described in the previous enhancement.

- *Enhancement:* It is now possible to exit the Zone Select menu after entering it via a side key programmed for Zone Select by pressing the side key again. It is no longer necessary to use the menu keys to exit.
- *Enhancement:* A received signal strength indicator is now shown on the display, in approximate dBm.
- *Enhancement:* If a side key is programmed for FM Radio and the radio keypad is locked, a long press of the Scan # key can be used to scan the FM Radio band even though the radio keypad is locked.
- *Enhancement:* If a side key is programmed for NOAA weather and the radio keypad is locked, a long press of the Scan # key can be used to scan the NOAA channels even though the radio keypad is locked.
- *Enhancement:* If Dual Watch is set to On, or if Dual Watch is set to Off and Single Watch is set to Off, a long press of the 2 key now cycles through Channel Name, Frequency, Channel Number, or Channel Name and Channel Frequency. The last is a new option.

Note: In order to fit all of this information on the radio screen, a smaller font size is used in this display mode. Some users may find it difficult to read and prefer to use a long press of the 2 key to cycle between display options instead.

- *Enhancement:* It is now possible to select *Name+Frequency* as an option in the *Program Channel / Ch. Display Mode* menu.

Note: While this setting is located in the *Program Channel* menu, it applies to all channels.

- *Enhancement:* When deleting previously programmed channels via the radio keypad, the actual channel name is displayed rather than "CH-xxx".

1.2 Changes in firmware version V0.44

This section lists the changes to firmware V0.33 that are available in V0.44.

- *Correction:* When programming a new channel from the radio keypad, it is no longer necessary to save the channel name, then enter the other channel settings and save again.

Note: Changes to channel settings take effect *immediately*. If you are creating a new channel, to avoid inadvertent modification of the channel the radio is currently on, first save a copy of the current channel to a new channel memory location, change the radio to that channel, and then make your desired changes.

- *Correction:* The power on display time now correctly matches the radio setting. Previously, the duration was longer than the radio setting indicated.
- *Correction:* A scan frequency range in the aircraft bands is now correctly preserved after the radio restarts.

Summary of modifications by version

- *Correction:* The speed is no longer reported as 1.24 MPH before the radio acquires a satellite fix.

Note: You may still observe erroneous speeds when you are not moving. The speed accuracy improves if you are moving at a constant speed in a constant direction. Further work in this area is planned for a future firmware update.

- *Correction:* When switching between radio IDs or between the GPS coordinates and the circle screen showing the distance to the other radio, the GPS status indicator (red / green) and number of satellites no longer briefly disappears.
- *Documentation update:* If the radio is on the *Radio Info* screen, programming will fail with a "No response from radio" error message. Make sure that the radio is on any other screen when programming.
- *Enhancement:* Linked Zones scanning is now available. This lets you enable the scanning of multiple zones during a scan operation. It is accessed by *Menu / Scan / Link Zones / On* to enable Linked Zones scanning. *Menu / Scan / Scan Zones* lets you select the zones you want to scan. At least one zone must be selected. If *Link Zones* is set to *Off*, scanning operates as in previous firmware versions, where a scan will scan only the single zone shown on the radio screen.

Notes: Existing 1.2.51 CPS radio configs default to *Link Zones* set to *On* but with no zones selected for scanning. This will result in the radio giving a double beep tone indicating that no zones are configured for scanning. Either change *Link Zones* to *Off* or enable one or more *Scan Zones*.

Scanning multiple zones can be quite slow if there are many channels with *Scan Add* set to *On* in the selected zones.

A *Scan* checkbox has been added to the channel list in the CPS to enable pre-configuring which zones will be selected for *Link Zones* scanning.

- *Enhancement:* When *Dual Watch* is set to *On*, the radio now displays an antenna icon to indicate which of A or B is selected for transmission.

Note: This is of particular use to people who have difficulty distinguishing between which of the upper or lower half of the display will be used for transmission, as the grey/white difference of the active half can be difficult to distinguish, for example, when outdoors.

- *Enhancement:* *Zone Select* is now a selectable option for both SK1 and SK2 functions.

Note: This is for "classic" scanning within a single zone. Selecting multiple zones for scanning must be done via the *Menu / Scan / Scan Zones* menu setting.

- *Enhancement:* While the radio is on the GPS screen, the *Auto Lock* function is disabled. This behavior is consistent with that of the stopwatch screen.

- *Enhancement:* On the GPS screen, if the GPS Units are set to MPH, the elevation display is now reported in feet instead of meters.
- *Enhancement:* The side keys (either SK1 + SK2, PTT, or SK1 + SK2 + PTT) can now be disabled. A drop-down list for these options has been added to the Radio Function window in the CPS.

Notes: This can be useful when carrying the radio in a case and you want to avoid accidental button presses.

If you are programming the radio for another user, it may be desirable to disable the side keys (and perhaps enable Lock and Auto Lock) to simplify operation of the radio. Disabling PTT lets you program the radio for someone who either does not (yet) have an amateur license or doesn't want to accidentally press the PTT button and transmit.

Disabling PTT on the side key also disables PTT on a microphone or headset plugged into the K1 connector. This is a hardware limitation.

- *Enhancement:* The number of satellites the radio is tracking is now shown on the GPS screen.

Note: The fewer satellites being tracked, the more likely it is that the reported elevation and speed are incorrect.

- *Enhancement:* The number of squelch levels has been changed from 5 to 8.

1.3 Changes in firmware version V0.33

This section lists the changes to firmware V0.29 that are available in V0.33.

- *Correction:* When the radio is switched to frequency mode and a scan is performed, the radio now correctly displays "Frequency mode" instead of the name of the most recent channel from channel mode.
- *Correction:* The capitalization of the diagnostic message "CTCSS out of range!" has been corrected.
- *Correction:* Setting a custom CTCSS tone of exactly 63.0 no longer displays as "Off".
- *Correction:* Stopwatch mode no longer displays icons from other modes.
- *Correction:* The frequency step in the aircraft band is now correctly set to 8.33 KHz
- *Correction:* The S-meter now functions properly in dual watch mode or when a scan pauses due to channel activity.
- *Correction:* Scanning no longer stops when the SK1, SK2, or Tx buttons are pressed.

Note: Pressing the Tx button while scanning will temporarily pause scanning and transmit on whatever frequency the scan is on.

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Scanning will resume when the Tx button is released. This is expected to be addressed in a future firmware update.

- *Correction:* The GPS now correctly reports negative altitude readings instead of displaying a number near 6500m.

Notes: A negative altitude reading can be displayed when an insufficient number of satellites are detected by the radio, leading to an incorrect altitude report. There are also places in the US with actual negative altitudes (such as Badwater Basin, CA at -85.5m)

There are still some inaccuracies in the reported altitude. These are expected to be addressed in a future firmware update.

- *Correction:* The DTMF tones for 2 and 3 now function properly in PTT mode.
- *Correction:* The NOAA weather channels are now listed in the correct order.
- *Correction:* The radio no longer gets stuck in a continuous Tx state if it receives a GPS position request while the radio is displaying the main (not GPS) screen.
- *Correction:* The "Reset All" menu function now correctly resets the radio to the factory "out of the box" configuration.
- *Correction:* The [8] power-up information screen now reports the correct information.
- *Documentation update:* When entering text strings from the keypad (for example, when programming a channel name), the [#] key is used to toggle between upper and lower case.
- *Enhancement:* The SK1 key function is now fully programmable.
- *Enhancement:* NOAA weather is now a selectable option for both SK1 and SK2 functions.
- *Enhancement:* The "Rx" LED now blinks during scanning to indicate that a scan is in progress. This lets the user see that scanning is still in progress once the radio screen times out.