

Operating Manual
SWL IR Remote Control for Lowe HF-225
For
Firmware Version 1.43

Web Site: <http://www.swl-remotes.com/>

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May 30, 2005
Revision 2.51

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Overview

Thank you for purchasing the SWL IR Remote. We are confident that you will get many hours of listening pleasure from your HF-225 using the remote. Don't hesitate to contact us at support@swl-remotes.com if you have any problems or questions. We want your experience with our products to be as positive and enjoyable as possible. We also appreciate any comments on how we can make our products better.

The SWL IR Remote is a microcontroller-based device that decodes the Infrared pulse stream from a Universal Remote control and converts it into the remote commands for shortwave receivers and transceivers. Several versions of the SWL IR Remote are available for different models of Receivers and Transceivers.

The SWL IR Remote is connected to the HF-225 receiver using a 1/8in (3.5mm) audio type cable connected from the SWL IR Remote to the KEYPAD jack on the receiver.

Power for the SWL IR Remote is provided by the included wall power supply. Alternatively, 9-12Volts DC at 100ma max can be supplied to the power connector. The center pin of the coax power connector is positive. There is a blocking diode in the circuit, so reverse polarity will not harm the SWL IR Remote control unit. Customers in Europe receive a DC cable that connects to the coax power jack on the SWL IR Remote control unit and has pig tail leads on the other end for connecting to a DC power supply.

All keys on the Universal Remote are indicated in this manual with bold type. The keys used for radio control are the digits **0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Mute, Power, Enter**, and **Last** or **Previous**. All references to the **Last** key also refers to the **Previous** key on the remotes that have that key.

Any Universal Remote control should operate the SWL IR Remote. Follow the instructions in the remote manual to set the remote to operate a Sony TV. The remote needs digit keys, **Power, Enter**, and **Last** or **Previous** buttons. The remote should be in TV mode to operate properly. Make sure you do not have Cable or VCR modes selected. The codes from the keys when in Cable or VCR mode are different and will not operate the SWL IR Remote.

None of the settings are changed in the HF-225 with the exception of memories that you write with the remote. All settings are temporary in the remote control. You can go back at any time to using your HF-225 from the front panel.

Keep the Quick Commands Reference sheet by your remote as reference on the SWL IR Remote operation.

Connection to Radio

The Lowe HF-225 cable has a 1/8in (3.5mm) audio plug on each end. Connect the cable to the back of the SWL IR Remote control unit and then connect to the back of your receiver to the connection marked KEYPAD. The front panel of the receiver is still active with the SWL IR Remote plugged in.

Plug in the wall power supply and plug into the back of the SWL IR Remote control box. The power connector is located on the back left hand side of the control unit. The SWL IR Remote draws very little power and does not include or need a power switch.

Remote Control Operation

Description

The following describes the operation of the remote control. Refer to the Universal Remote Commands tables, or the Commands Quick Reference guides for specific features.

Once you begin to use the remote you will get very comfortable with the operation. There is a lot of functionality achieved by just a few remote buttons. The biggest problem you will have in the operation of the remote is the **Enter** key. If you do not enter the codes exactly you will end up trying to enter a direct frequency. Direct frequency entry can occur in either VFO or memory modes.

Direct Frequency Entry

When entering frequencies directly, be sure to press a digit key before the first decimal point. The **Mute** button functions to mute the radio, as a decimal point when entering frequencies, and as a clear to abort any key entry to that point. When using the **Mute** button as a clear, be sure to press it enough times to get the LED to blink twice. This is confirmation that the clear command has been accepted. When entering frequencies directly, the **Mute** key will operate as a decimal point only after a digit key has been pressed before the first decimal point. As an example, you can enter **0 Mute 3 Enter** for 300KHz. Pressing the **Mute** a second time during direct frequency entry will then enter 100Hz values. To enter 15.235.500 you would enter **1 5 Mute 2 3 5 Mute 5 Enter**. Zeroes are assumed when not entered. You can enter 15.235.500 by pressing **1 5 2 3 5 Mute 5 Enter**. You can enter the frequency without any decimal places, but you need to enter all the zeros so the frequency is not misunderstood. To enter 15.235.500 without using the decimal key, enter **1 5 2 3 5 5 0 0 Enter**.

The SWL IR Remote assumes that you are entering frequencies in kHz. Any frequency in kHz can be entered directly. 9565kHz would be entered as **9 5 6 5 Enter**. The decimal place (**Mute**) is not necessary in this case. The decimal place is only needed to save zero entries or optionally when entering a frequency less than 1MHz. When entering frequencies below 1MHz, press a leading zero before the frequency and then **Enter**. For example: **0 7 0 0 Enter** for 700kHz. Or use the **Mute** key as a decimal place before or after the frequency entry. For example: **7 0 0 Mute Enter** for 700kHz or **0 Mute 7 Enter** for 700 kHz.

After a frequency has been entered, you can then use the **CH+/-** to step the frequency in the VFO mode. Frequency steps of 1kHz, 5kHz, 9kHz, 10kHz, 100kHz, and 1MHz can be used to adjust an entered frequency very quickly or step through stations with set frequency spacing. Press a numeric key corresponding to the frequency step desired (see commands below), and then the **CH+/-** and the step frequency will be used. The step frequency is kept and used again the next time the **CH+/-** keys are used. The step is permanently kept when the radio is powered off and back on with the remote **Power** button. The **CH+/-** keys will change the frequency when in the VFO mode, and change memories up and down when in memory mode.

Frequency pacing is the rate at which the frequency is increased or decreased when the **CH+/-** keys are held down. The pacing is a configurable parameter that can be set by the user. You can speed up or slow down the rate at which the frequency changes by setting the frequency pacing.

The **CH+/-** keys are used to step the frequency up and down when in VFO mode. The first press of the **CH+/-** in this mode will be slightly delayed. If the key is held down it will then begin stepping the frequency at the current slewing rate. Use single presses of the **CH+/-** keys to move slowly up or down in frequency. Hold the keys down continuously to step the frequency very quickly.

The HF-225 interface is unidirectional. Because of this the remote has no way of knowing the current frequency setting on the display. When the SWL IR Remote control unit is first powered, it sets the frequency to 10MHz. You can then move around from there and the remote tracks the frequency. The current frequency is kept as long as the remote control unit is powered. If the power is removed, the frequency goes back to 10MHz.

Last Frequency Recall

The last directly entered frequency can be recalled. Use this when looking for other frequencies being used by a shortwave broadcaster. You can set a frequency directly, enter another frequency, and return to the original frequency. You can then enter another frequency and return, etc. The last frequency entered is lost if power is removed from the remote control unit. It is kept if the radio is powered off.

Tuning Steps

Pre-set Tuning Steps can be selected by entering a single digit before using the **CH+/-** keys on the remote. The tuning step stays until changed again by the user.

Five User Tuning Steps can be defined for special tuning requirements. Set these tuning steps to half the value of your filters. Tuning off frequency by half the filter bandwidth will improve audio response without degrading the signal. For example if you have a 2.4kHz filter, set User Tuning Step 1 to 1.2kHz and then tune off frequency when the 2.4kHz filter is selected. This procedure is similar to using a PBT control, but you can see on the display how much off frequency you are tuned.

Even though you can set User Tuning steps on the Lowe HF-225, they really don't make much sense. The keyboard interface on the HF-225 only accepts frequency values to 1kHz. Frequencies sent from the SWL IR Remote are truncated below 1kHz, so anything below 1kHz will be taken as zero. A step of 100Hz will do nothing to tune the HF-225 until the 1kHz digit is changed. If you were to increment from 1kHz to 2kHz by 100Hz steps, the tuning would not be affected until 2kHz was to show on the display. This would take 10 presses of the **CH+**.

Memory Operation

When moving through the memories, you can directly select a memory channel using the **x (x) Last** key sequence. For example, to select channel 2 you would press **2 Last**.

Only the first 10 memories are available from the SWL IR Remote on the HF-225. This is a limitation of the Keypad interface on the HF-225.

Mute Operation

There is a lot of functionality in the **Mute** key. The **Mute** key is used during frequency entry as a decimal point. Any time a digit key is pressed before the **Mute**, the control unit then understands

the **Mute** to be a decimal point. At any time you can press the **Mute** key to clear any keys pressed. The **Mute** may have to be pressed several times to get the LED to blink twice, indicating that the keys have been cleared. The remote needs to know whether the **Mute** is being used for a decimal or it is intended to be a clear. A clear function is interpreted by the remote control by multiple presses of the **Mute** key.

The **Mute** key also clears any pending entry on the receiver and will reset the radio display.

Universal Remote Commands

Direct Entry of Frequencies (Examples)

0 8 3 0 Enter	830kHz
0 Mute 7 Enter	700kHz
5 0 0 Mute Enter	500kHz
3 Mute 2 5 9 Enter	3259kHz
1 5 Mute Enter	15000kHz
9 5 6 5 Enter	9565kHz
3 Mute 5 Enter	3500kHz
Mute (Mute) (Mute)	Clear key entry during numeric entry. LED will blink twice.

Frequency and Memory Channel stepping

	<u>VFO Mode</u>	<u>Memory Mode</u>
CH+	Freq+ by tuning step	Memory+
CH-	Freq- by tuning step	Memory-

Tuning Steps

x before **CH+/-** to set a tuning step. It stays until changed again.

- 4 1kHz
- 5 5kHz
- 6 10kHz
- 7 100kHz
- 8 1MHz
- 9 9kHz

User Tuning Steps

- 0** before **CH+/-** Last Used User Tuning Step
- 0 x** before **CH+/-** User Tuning Step (**x**=1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Enter Commands – Toggles/Selects radio features

Enter VFO/Memory mode.

Memory management

x x Last Select Memory Channel xx. Used for channels 1 - 10. Only 10 memories are available through the Keypad interface on the HF-225.

or

x Last Select Memory Channel x.

0 0 Last Recall last directly entered frequency and select VFO mode

Configuration Parameters

- 0 9 4 Enter** Set Frequency Pacing
x x Enter Value from 1 to 99 to control pacing. 1 is the fastest and 99 is the slowest.
- 0 9 5 Enter** Set Configuration Parameters to Factory Defaults.
Enter Reset Configuration Parameters to Factory Default.
Frequency Pacing 30
- 0 9 7 Enter** Define User Tuning Steps
x Mute f f f f Enter
The User Tuning step x (1, 2, 3, 4, or 5) is defined as frequency **ffff**, converted to f.fffkHz. You must enter all digits, even zeroes; e.g. define Tuning Step 2 with a value of 1.4kHz would be **2 Mute 1 4 0 0 Enter**. The display on the radio will show the value as 2.140.000Hz when you are done to confirm the entered value. It is best to set these tuning steps with the receiver on and in the VFO mode. These steps are saved in non-volatile memory and are never changed except using this configuration mode.

LED Operation

Communications Error

Because the HF-225 communications is unidirectional, there is no status or response from the receiver. The LED will never slow blink indicating a communications error.

Clear Input

After the **Mute** is used to clear key entries the LED will blink twice. The clear will also cancel any pending entry on the display of the HF-225.

Confirmation of Command

After a valid command has been issued and acknowledged the LED will blink once and go out.

Configuration Mode

When you enter the parameter configuration mode, the LED will blink continuously at a fast rate until the configuration operation is completed or canceled.

Troubleshooting

Nothing happens when using the Universal Remote.

- Verify that the Universal Remote is in the TV mode. Check that the remote control box is connected to the wall power supply and that the wall power supply is connected to the AC supply.
- Check the batteries in the Universal Remote and change if necessary.
- Verify that the TV mode of the Universal Remote is set for a Sony TV.

Operation on the HF-225 causes single digits to show on the display.

The HF-225 interface has no way of changing the mode from VFO to memory mode, or memory to VFO. It also has no way of knowing through the KEYPAD interface which mode the receiver is currently in. If you operate the **CH+/-** keys with the SWL IR Remote in memory mode, but the HF-225 in VFO mode, you will see single digits show on the display. Press the **Enter** key, then operate the **CH+/-** keys and see if the display on the HF-225 returns to normal.

The LED on the remote control unit blinks fast.

- The configuration mode has been selected and the operation needs to be completed. Push **Mute** to cancel the operation or **x x Enter** to complete the operation. See chart above on the configuration command parameters.

Some buttons on the control work, and some don't.

- Verify that the Universal Remote TV mode is selected. If CABLE or VCR modes are selected, only a few buttons will work. The mute will work in both modes. None of the other keys will work in cable or VCR mode.
- Operate the buttons with more time between button presses. There is a 100 msec delay between key presses so the remote control unit can tell if the button on the remote is held continuously or has been released and pressed again. Each press of the remote will cause a continuous stream of IR pulses to be sent (the LED on the Universal Remote will be lit continuously). The remote control unit knows that the button has been released if the IR pulse stream stops for 100 msec or longer.

Erratic Operation of the remote

- Check the batteries in the Universal Remote and replace if necessary.
- Be sure to aim the Universal Remote at the front panel of the control unit. The IR sensor is behind the front lens to the left of the LED. This is more critical the further you are away from the remote control box.
- Confirm that the interface cable is connected securely to the radio and the SWL IR Remote control box.
- Check the power connection to the back of the SWL IR Remote control box.

Memory on the radio and the SWL IR Remote are not synchronized.

- If the memories are changed in any fashion other than the Universal Remote, the SWL IR Remote can lose track of the currently selected memory. Use the SWL IR Remote to

perform memory operations, or select the memory channel directly with the SWL IR Remote to synchronize the current memory channel after making memory changes other than by using the remote.