

Operating Manual
SWL IR Remote Control for Drake R8/A/B
For
Firmware Version 1.43

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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 Drake R8/A/B 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 R8/A/B receiver using a standard straight through RS-232C (DB9 male to DB9 female) cable connected from the SWL IR Remote to the Interface connector on the R8/A/B.

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 R8/A/B 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 R8/A/B from the front panel.

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

Connection to Radio

Connect the DB9 female end of the included RS-232C cable to the SWL IR Remote and connect the DB9 male end of the cable to the Interface connection on the back of the R8/A/B. The baud rate for the R8/A/B is fixed at 9600 and cannot be changed. The front panel on the R8/A/B can be used whenever the SWL IR Remote is connected to the receiver.

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.

Note: The SWL IR Remote comes pre-configured to work with the R8B. It will not communicate properly with the R8 until you configure the SWL IR Remote to work with the R8. To configure the SWL IR Remote to the R8 use the 091 configuration command. The key sequence is **0 9 1 Enter 1 Enter**. Be sure to not press the keys too fast.

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 on different radios.

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. You can stick with the basic operations of the remote (frequency, and memory) and still achieve a lot of control over your radio. 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.

Power

When the radio is turned off with the remote, certain status is saved to non-volatile memory and restored when power is turned back on with the remote. The current memory selection, current tuning step, and the VFO/memory mode are stored in non-volatile memory. The last frequency entered is kept in volatile memory and will be lost when power is removed from the control unit.

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, or for the volume to mute. 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**. You can also 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 10Hz, 100Hz, 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.

If the VHF Converter option is installed in the R8/A/B, and the VHF Converter is enabled in the SWL IR Remote, you will be able to enter and step through frequencies in the range of 35-55MHz and 108-174MHz. The FM mode and the VHF antenna option become selectable with the VHF Converter option.

Direct frequency entry is the same for the VHF Converter as in HF operation except for frequencies above 100 MHz. An additional **Mute** is required for frequencies above 100 MHz.

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 or losing synch lock. 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. You could also set a User Tuning Step to a small value and use it to quickly zero-beat the frequency in SSB mode.

Memory Operation

When moving through the memories, you can directly select a memory channel using the **x (x) (x) Last** key sequence. For example, to select channel 23 you would press **2 3 Last**. You can select a memory channel in VFO or memory mode. You can also write the VFO to the currently selected memory. Once the channel is selected, you can move the memory to the VFO using **0 Last**, or move through the channels one at a time using the **CH+/-** keys. The **CH+/-** will change the memory channel when in memory mode only.

The R8 memories are numbered from 0-99, the R8A memories are numbered from 0-439, and the R8B memories are numbered from 0-999. The 0 memory channel cannot be directly accessed with the SWL IR Remote. The **0 Last** key sequence is used for moving a memory to the VFO.

The R8/A/B version tracks memories because the interface provides the current memory channel selected. The remote will do the best job it can to track the current memory. When the radio is powered off with the **Power** key on the remote, the current memory channel is put into semi-permanent memory so it can be restored even after the remote control unit is powered off.

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.

Memory or Programmed Scan

You can initiate a memory scan while in the memory mode, and a programmed scan in the VFO mode by pressing the **Last** key. The **Last** key must be pressed to stop a scan. All other keys on the remote are ignored by the R8/A/B while scanning, except for **Last**. A memory scan is when the radio scans through the stored memory channels. A programmed scan is where the radio scans the frequency starting at the current frequency. See the R8/A/B manual for a description of these modes of scanning and how they operate. The SWL IR Remote only initiates a scan. It has no control over the way the scan operates.

Universal Remote Commands

Radio Power

Power Radio power on /off.

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
1 5 Mute 2 3 Mute 5 Enter 15230.5kHz
1 5 2 3 5 Enter 15235kHz
9 5 6 5 Enter 9565kHz
3 Mute 5 Enter 3500kHz
Mute (Mute) (Mute) Clear key entry during numeric entry. LED will blink twice.

Direct Entry of VHF Frequencies (Examples)

4 6 Mute 4 2 46.42MHz
1 6 2 Mute 5 5 Mute 162.55MHz *

* Note: additional **Mute** required for frequencies above 100MHz.

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.

2	10Hz	(Below 100MHz)
3	100Hz	
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)

Scan Control

	<u>VFO Mode</u>	<u>Memory Mode</u>
Last	Start/Stop Programmed Scan	Start/Stop Memory Scan

Enter Commands – Toggles/Selects radio features

Enter	VFO/Memory mode.
1 Enter	Preamp on/off.
2 Enter	Attenuator on/off.
3 Enter	ANT 1, 2 or VHF (configurable).
4 Enter	VFO A or B.
5 Enter	Notch filter on/off.
6 Enter	AGC slow, fast, or off (configurable).
7 Enter	Synchronous Detection on/off.
8 Enter	AM, LSB, USB, FM (configurable), or CW (configurable).
9 Enter	Bandwidth 0.5 (CW mode enabled), 1.8, 2.3, 4.0, or 6.0 kHz.
0 Enter	Cycle through step sizes (display resolution).

Direct Enter Commands – Directly Selects radio features

3 x Enter	Antenna
	1 – ANT 1
	2 – ANT 2
	3 – VHF Converter
4 x Enter	VFO
	1 – VFO A=B (R8A & R8B)
6 x Enter	AGC
	0 – Off
	1 – Slow
	2 – Fast
8 x Enter	AM, LSB, USB, FM, or CW
	1 – USB
	2 – LSB
	3 – RTTY
	4 – CW
	5 – FM
	6 – AM
0 x Enter	Miscellaneous Functions (R8A & R8B)
	1 – MHz/kHz Frequency Display Mode
	2 – Frequency Display
	3 – Time Display
	4 – Memory Name Mode On
	5 – Memory Name Mode Off
	6 – Dim/Brighten Display Backlight

Memory management

x x x Last Select Memory Channel xxx. Used for channels 100-999. R8A & R8B only.
The R8 has only 99 memories.

x x Last Select Memory Channel xx. Used for channels 10 – 99. Can also be used for 01-99.

or

x Last Select Memory Channel x. Used for channels 1 – 9.

0 Last Memory to VFO. Frequency and mode are transferred from memory to VFO and VFO mode is selected. This will only work when not scanning.

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

1 x x x Last Write VFO Frequency and mode to memory channel xxx. This will only work when not scanning.

Configuration Parameters

- 0 9 1 Enter** Set Drake Model
- 1 Enter** Drake R8
 - 2 Enter** Drake R8A
 - 3 Enter** Drake R8B (Factory Default)
- 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
 - Optional Modes/AGC Disabled
 - VHF operation Disabled
- 0 9 6 Enter** Enable/Disable Optional Mode Selections
- 0 Enter** Disable FM and CW modes in selections. (Factory default)
 - 1 Enter** Enable FM mode in selections.
 - 2 Enter** Enable CW mode in selections.
 - 3 Enter** Enable both FM and CW in mode selections.
 - 4 Enter** Disable AGC off (Factory default).
 - 5 Enter** Enable AGC off in AGC selections.
 - 6 Enter** Disable VHF operation (Factory default).
 - 7 Enter** Enable VHF operation (VHF Converter must be installed).
- 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.ffffkHz. 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

The LED provides feedback on the mode and operation of the SWL IR Remote. The LED blinks slowly whenever there is a communications error or the communications has timed out waiting for a response when a response is expected. This can also occur if the radio is powered off and you try to initiate commands. Communications errors will occur on the R8/A/B whenever a function cannot be performed at a particular time. For example, when scanning on the R8/A/B, all commands are ignored with the exception of the command to stop the scan.

Communications Error

The LED blinks continuously at a slow rate when the communication times out from the radio, or a command gets no response. If the radio power is off and you try to initiate any command but power on, the radio will ignore all commands and the LED will indicate a communications error. If this occurs on every function and the radio is powered on and not responding, check the cable connection to the radio. This can also mean that the command is invalid in the current operating condition. For example, when scanning, all key presses are ignored by the R8/A/B except for the **Last** key to stop scanning.

Clear Input

After the **Mute** is used to clear key entries the LED will blink twice.

Confirmation of Command

After a valid command has been issued and acknowledged the LED will blink once and go out. The LED will appear to be on continuously when the **CH+/-** is held in the frequency mode, because the commands repeat and the LED doesn't always time 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.

- Make sure the radio is powered.
- 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.

The LED on the remote control unit blinks slowly.

- If no remote operations function, check cable connection to the radio.
- Verify that the R8/A/B is turned on. All commands are ignored except power on when the radio is turned off.
- The R8/A/B will ignore all commands while the radio is scanning. The **Last** key will work to stop scanning.
- Be sure the configuration for your model of R8 is set properly. There are differences in the way the R8 and R8A/B communicate.

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 power and 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.