

Radioddity GD-77 Review by KI5PG

August 4, 2020

The Radioddity GD-77 is a dual band VHF/UHF Analog/DMR radio. It has been on the market since around 2016. As such, it was one of the first low cost DMR radios to hit the market in the US. It has been reviewed many times and is consistently given good ratings.

It has a written user manual of 69 pages. The sentence construction and word usage clearly indicates the manual was written by a person who did not speak English as their native language. The manual provides basic information but it does not provide in depth to help explain the use of a particular button, function, or feature of the radio. Oftentimes, a Google search provides more help than the written manual.

The GD-77 radio is solidly made. It feels good in the hand. Received reports on the net were positive on analog repeater 145.190 MHz. Like most DMR radios it has a good battery even when transmitting on 5 watts for high power.

Some much for the good stuff. Now I'll tell you about the radio's short comings.

The one thing that contributes to this radio's high rating is the same thing that contributes to the radio's overall lower evaluation today: The radio is "old" by DMR standards. When the GD-77 first came out it enjoyed good reviews because there were not a lot of competitive radios to compare it with. But newer DMR radios with more features and lower costs have eclipsed this radio in terms of features and cost.

I bought the radio direct from Radioddity on their website. For a communist country, the Chinese are consummate capitalists when it comes to marketing. Radioddity has a marketing scheme that basically forces you to spend \$100 to obtain free shipping. The radio sells on their website for about \$85. A lot of their radios are about the same price, less than \$100. But if that is the only item you buy then you have to pay \$15 in shipping. You can see where this is going. You end up buying accessories you may not need just to get the free shipping. Radioddity does not tell you where the radio is shipped from. They only say it is stock in their warehouse. But their warehouse is in China. It takes about 7-10 days to get in.

The CPS (Consumer programming software) is adequate by Chinese radio standards but I can't rate it as good. It has limited ability to import CSV files to build a code plug.

The radio has a backlit LCD display. It shows the frequency and little else. Newer DMR radios have a larger color display which provides more information.

The GD-77 does not have a GPS receiver. It does have the ability to send and receive (SMS) text messages.

The radio has limited space for importing private digital contacts. The first generation of DMR radios combined the private digital contacts with the public talk groups. Newer radios have a separate memory allocated for digital contacts and the ability to display the name, callsign, and hometown of the received call.

Bottom Line: The Radioddity GD-77 is a good performing DMR radio with basic features. Newer DMR handheld radios now provide more features at a lower price point.

Manufacturer provided information: (Take this with a big grain of salt.)

Radioddity GD-77 DMR radio features 5W high power output, UHF/VHF capability, Tier I/II dual time slot capability, a 2200 mAh battery. GD-77 is the most cost-effective DMR HT on the market, with solid hardware construction and easy to use programming software. The greatest appeal of Radioddity's GD-77 lies in its ability to deliver great DMR compatibility & crystal clear audio. It's light-weight portability, high capacity battery, and user-customizable design makes it the perfect radio for both experienced and new HAM users. The latest radio programming software and firmware is always available free at the Radioddity website.

Main Features: (Again, this is what the manufacturer says about the radio.)

- FCC Part 90 Certified
- Programmable CTSS/DCS, Squelch, Busy Lock, TOT, VOX, Encrypt, Password Lock, Radio ID, Scan
- Up to 250 zones, Message, Contact, Emergency Alarm
- Up to 128 received groups, Dual Ban, Side Keys
- ADD VFO, Contact ID(expanded from 256 to 1000)
- Channel list(expanded from 16 to 31), Supports Digital & Analogue Mode
- Dual Band, Frequency Range in VHF/UHF, Support DMR repeater function: both DMR Tier I and Tier II.

