

Alinco DJ-MD5 radio review notes by KI5PG

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Firmware version 1.13c
Software (CPS) programming version 1.12
Radio owned by Terry Turner N5HV

This VHF/UHF analog/digital handheld radio is a bit smaller than the BTech 6X2 radio. It has a nice size color screen that is easy to read. The radio is programmed through a micro USB cable. Programming is similar to the BTech programming but not identical.

The radio is shipped with current firmware as far as I can tell.

Like all DMR radios, initial programming (building a working code plug) can be daunting. While the analog programming is familiar and fairly straight forward, DMR radios have Zones, Talk Groups, Color codes, and Digital Contacts to confound and confuse the DMR newbie. If you are unfamiliar with DMR programming I strongly encourage you to find someone that is a little bit more familiar with DMR programming. Both Gary, WT0B, and I will be happy to help you over the hump for the steep learning curve for programming your DMR radio.

The radio holds 160,000 digital contacts, enough for the whole US. The digital contacts took a while to load but the process was fairly easy and straight forward.

The programming screen is very similar in nature to the BTech 6x2 but you cannot load a full LST file because Alinco has some different programming areas than the BTech, Attempts to load 6X2 LST file fails.

Instead I imported a number of CSV files piece meal from my BTech DMR 6X2 radio to build a working code plug.

The programming software (CPS) was fairly easy to use, at least as much so as any Chinese radio (although I think Alinco is a Japanese company.)

I have not tested the GPS function on the Alinco. Likewise I did not test the SMS (text) messaging system on the radio. These additional features hold promise for increased functionality but as yet, these new features are somewhat elusive as we feel our way through this new technology.

The radio is available stateside for about \$165 - \$180.

Manufacturer provided information:

ALINCO DJ-MD5TGP Highlights

LCD Display: Vibrant 1.77in Color LCD Display, enhances user experience with detailed and clear Radio Activity in both Bands as the same time.

Higher Channel: Available 4000 Memory Channel capacity and 160000 contacts allows users to maximize their entire list of Favorite Talkgroups.

GPS Capability: GPS position reporting

ALINCO DJ-MD5TGP Features

- DMR Tier I and Tier II
- 1.77 inch TFT color LCD
- GPS Built-in
- VFO/MR Switch
- Output power selectable (5W/2.5W/1W/0.2W)
- 4000 channel memory
- SMS (Digital mode)
- Communication recording (Digital mode)
- Individual/Group/All call (Digital mode)
- CTCSS/DCS/DTMF/2Tone/5Tone encode and decode (Analog mode)
- Selectable battery-save
- 1700mAh Li-ion battery

