Technical Note TN-693

Tait Orca Portable Radio Type Conversion Process

6th November 2001

Applicability

This Technical Note only applies to the Tait Orca range of handportables and any rebranded Tait Orca Portables

1. Introduction

Background

The Tait Orca range of portables has the ability to change between trunked and conventional or even upgrade / downgrade between tiers in the product range by changing an internal code number in the radio.

The Electronic Configuration Code (ECC) tells the radio exactly what type of product it is. This ECC number is obtained from the Portables logistics team, or if you have access to the ECC generation program via TaitWeb.

Depending on how the product is marketed in specific sales areas, a cost my be incurred for upgrading the product. To not incur a cost, the CSO must formalise an agreement with Portables Logitics.

2. Instructions

Requirements

1) Latest version of the Tait Orca Programming Utility installed on your PC.

2) Tait Orca programming lead and programming adapter (TOPA-SV-012 and TOPA-SV-003) connected to one of the COM ports of your PC.

3) ECC number obtained by contacting Portables Logistics or by the ECC generation program (if you have access).

4) The radio firmware file that the radio requires to operate in its new mode (trunked or conventional). The file can either be stored on a PC directory or on a 1.44Mb floppy disk.

Procedure

1) Connect the radio to the PC via the programming lead and programming adapter.

2) On your PC, go to 'Start', 'Programs', 'Tait Programming Applications' and then select 'TOP Download and Configuration Application'.

3) You will now see the Download and Configuration menu screen.

4) Select the 'Download' option on the left-hand side. The screen will change and you will be presented with new fields.

5) The TOP field requires the path to be entered for where the new firmware is located. Please locate the firmware using the 'browse' option.

6) Once the radio firmware file has been located, select the file and press 'Open'.

7) NOTE: There is no need to use the bottom field for saving the data file in the radio as the data file will be useless to the radio once the conversion has been completed. This field is generally only used when upgrading radio firmware, not type changing.

8) Now press the 'Download' button.

9) You will then be prompted by the software to put the radio into 'Bootstrap' mode. To do this, turn the radio off and then whilst holding the green / blue function button in, turn the radio back on. The radio will not beep or display anything at this time.

10) Once the radio has been put into bootstrap mode, select 'OK'

11) The new radio firmware will now be downloaded to the radio. This will take a few minutes. You can observe the download progress on the computer screen.

12) When the download has completed, press the 'OK' button on the screen. The radio will beep to indicate that it has a database error. This is normal at this stage.

13) Next, select the 'Configuration' option on the left side of the software.

14) In the screen that appears, you will see there is a section to enter in an ECC number. Please enter in the ECC number that you have been issued with.

15) Ensure the ECC number is the correct one for the serial number of the radio or else the conversion will not work. Press the 'Configure' button on the screen.

16) The program will then warn the user that if an incorrect ECC number is programmed into the radio at this stage, the radio will be inoperable until the correct ECC number is entered. Press the 'Yes' button to continue.

17) The new ECC number will now be programmed into the radio. This will only take a few seconds.

18) Once the radio has been programmed with the ECC number, the radio will reset. It will beep to indicate a database error. This is normal operation at this stage. The radio has a database error because no database is programmed into the radio.

19) At this stage, the conversion process is complete. All the user needs to do is program the radio with appropriate Tait Orca programming software. For example, if the user has converted from a conventional to a trunked radio, they will need to program the radio with trunking programming software.

Troubleshooting

- If the radio does not work after the ECC download, please re-enter the ECC number , double check it and try again.
- If it fails again, please contact TEL with the serial number and product number that you wish to convert to and ask for the ECC number again.

- If the ECC number you get is the same as the one you had previously, the radio may be faulty and will need to be returned to TEL for repair.

With any other problems, please contact Tait Electronics Technical Support Staff by using the Technical Support Issues Database (www.taitworld.com/support)

3. Issuing Authority

Name and position   Barry Crates
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