

How do I?



An occasional series

This week: ICOM 746 Pro
Setting the RF Power

The ICOM 746 Pro is an older radio. It's the father of the famous of the ICOM 756 PRO. The 746 has a monochrome LCD display while the 756 Pro and PRO II have a color display. The 756 has a second antenna jack for receive only. The 746 is a HF+ VHF with HF, 6M, and 2M capability. The 746 has DNR-Digital Noise Reduction (helpful for taking out interference from internal combustion engines) but the DSP-Digital Signal Processing seems limited..

On the 2M side the 746 has DTCS and CTCSS (Digital and Continuous Tone Code Squelch) for accessing amateur radio repeaters. And it has extended receive out to 174 MHz so listening to the land mobile band or NOAA weather forecasts won't be a problem.

Remember Click and Clack, the Tappet Brothers from "Car Talk"? The show was a long time staple on National Public Radio (NPR) featuring Tom and Ray Magliozzi. Tom passed away a few years ago but Ray is still very active. One of the schticks on their show was called "Stump the Chumps": A caller would get on the telephone and describe a problem. One of the brothers, usually Tom, would diagnose the problem. A month or so later the Tappet Brothers would get the original caller on the line to provide feedback as to whether their original answer was correct and whether that solved the caller's problem. The Car Talk Sound Effects Man played a "ta-da" fanfare as reward for a correct answer, or a raspberry for an incorrect answer.

Recently, in an altogether different Q&A forum, an otherwise happy ICOM 746 owner asked how you change the RF power. That seemed like an odd problem, but it stumped three people. Page IX in the manual shows the RF power knob is on the very bottom row, almost straight down from the bottom left corner of the display screen.

Turning the RF PWR knob fully clockwise (CW) gives you the full hundred watts out. It can go down to as little as 5 watts. It is not helpful that the text says CCW, which is counterclockwise, while the arrows show clockwise to increase and counterclockwise to decrease!

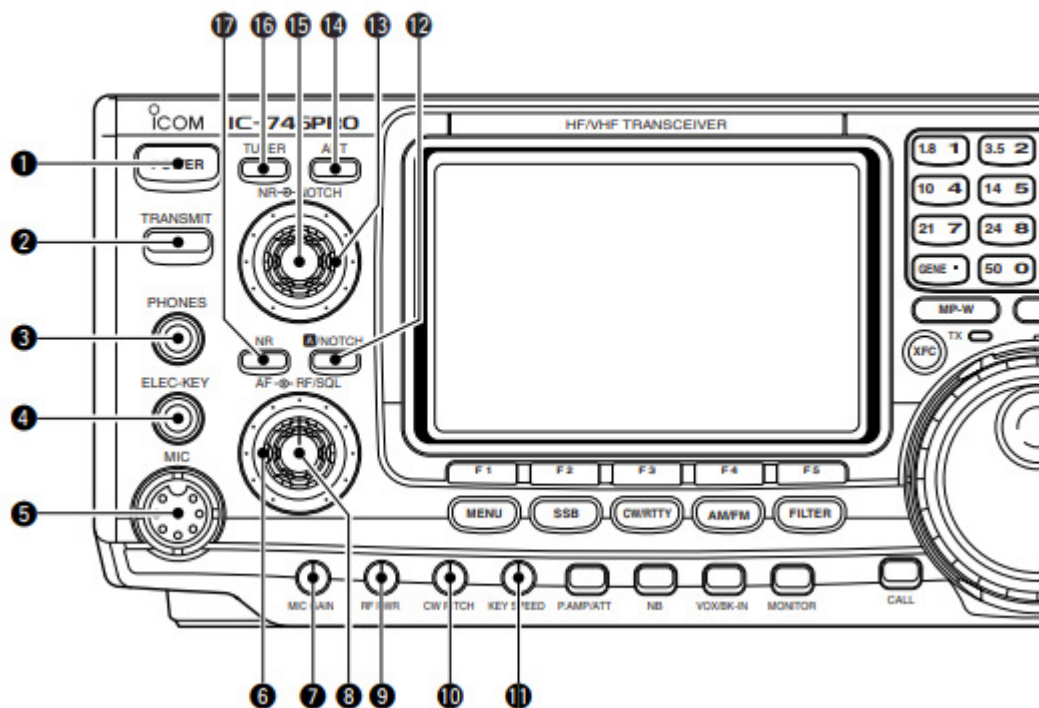
Catch 'ya on the air!

Editor's Note:

My Owner's Manual reads correctly. The illustration uses plain-language words – Increases and Decreases -- in place of the acronyms CW and CCW.

No worries here in grid square FN10.

■ Front panel



9 RF POWER CONTROL [RF PWR]

Continuously varies the RF output power from minimum (less than 5 W*) to maximum (100 W*).

* AM mode: less than 5 W to 40 W

Decreases ↙  ↘ Increases
RF PWR