

ELECRAFT K3 QUICK-START GUIDE

To get started using your K3 right away, please read this short tutorial section and try each of the controls. The text uses braces to refer to numbered elements in Figures 1 and 2. For example, {1} refers to ①, the mic jack.

Later sections provide greater detail on all aspects of K3 operation. For a description of LCD elements, see pg. ??.



Figure 1. Front Panel



Figure 2. Rear Panel

Connections



- Connect a power supply to the DC input jack {26} (see Specifications, pg. ??).
- On the K3/100, a circuit breaker is provided on the fan panel for the 100-W stage {30}. Low-power circuitry is protected by an internal self-resetting fuse.
- You can power an accessory device from the switched DC output jack {38} (0.5 A max).
- Connect an antenna to ANT1 {29}. If you have an ATU installed (pg. ??), you can connect a second antenna to ANT2 {28}. AUX RF {27} is for use with the subreceiver (pg. ??).
- See page ?? for a full description of the K3's rear-panel connectors.

The Basics

POWER



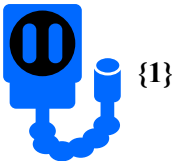
- Press **POWER** {5} to turn on the K3. If there are any error indications, refer to page ??.
- **TAP** and **HOLD** Functions: *Tapping* briefly activates the function labeled *on* a switch. *Holding* for about 1/2 second activates the function labeled *beneath* a switch.
- Tap either end of **BAND** {7} to select a band, and **MODE** {6} to select the mode. Set the AF gain using **AF** {2}. Set **RF** to max. Set **SUB AF** to min (pg. ??).
- The large knob {22} controls VFO A (upper display, {10}). The medium knob {19} controls VFO B (lower display, {11}). VFO A is main RX/TX except in SPLIT (pg. ??).
- **CMP / PWR** is one of four **multifunction controls** {24}. Each has two primary functions, indicated by the green LEDs above them. *Tap* the knob to select the desired function, in this case **CMP** (speech compression level) or **PWR** (power output in watts). *Hold* the knob to activate its secondary function, in this case **MON**itor level.

Filter Controls



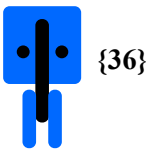
- Rotate the **SHIFT / LOCUT** and **HICUT / WIDTH** controls {23} to adjust the filter passband. Crystal filters **FL1-FL5** are automatically selected as you change the bandwidth. Tap either knob briefly to alternate between shift/width and hicut/locut.
- Hold **SHIFT / LOCUT** to **NORMAL**ize the bandwidth (e.g., 400 Hz CW, 2.8 kHz SSB).
- Hold **HICUT / WIDTH** to alternate between two filter setups, **I** and **II** (per-mode).
- Tap **XFIL** {13} to select crystal filters manually; this also removes any passband shift.

Voice Modes



- Hold **METER** {8} to select **CMP / ALC** metering. Set **MIC** {25} for 4-7 bars of ALC, and **CMP** for the desired compression. Then return to **SWR / PWR**. (Pg. ??.)
- **Optional:** Hold **TEST** {6} for **TX TEST**; allows off-air adjustment (**TX** icon flashes).
- Hold **CMP / PWR** {24} to set speech **MON**itor level; tap to return to **CMP / PWR**.
- Hold **VOX** {7} to select PTT or **VOX**. Hold **SPEED / MIC** to set **VOX DELAY**.
- **Additional details:** VOX (pg. ??), TX EQ (pg. ??), MIC (pg. ??), AM & FM (pg. ??).

CW Mode



- **SPEED** {25} sets the CW keyer speed. Hold this knob to set semi-break-in **DELAY**. Hold **QSK** {7} to select full break-in (**QSK** icon on) or semi-break-in. (Pg. ??.)
- Hold **PITCH** {18} to set sidetone pitch. Hold **CMP / PWR** to set sidetone **MON** level.
- Tap **CWT** {18} to enable tuning aid {9}. With **CWT** on, **SPOT** auto-tunes CW signals.
- To select CW text decode/display mode, hold **TEXT DEC** {18}, then rotate VFO B.
- CW keying is converted to DATA in **FSK D** and **PSK D** modes (below and pg. ??).
- Hold **DUAL PB** {13} to turn CW dual-passband receive mode on or off (pg. ??).

Data Modes



- Hold **DATA MD** {18}. Use VFO B to select from: **DATA A** (PSK31 & miscellaneous soundcard-based modes), **AFSK A** (soundcard-based RTTY), **FSK D** (RTTY via data input or keyer), or **PSK D** (PSK via data input or keyer). VFO A selects baud rate for internal text decoder, if applicable. **Additional details on DATA modes:** pg. ??.
- Hold **PITCH** {18} to select mark tone and shift (for decoder and dual-tone filter).
- Hold **TEXT DEC** {18} to turn on RTTY or PSK31 text decode. Tap **CWT** for tuning aid.

VFOs and RIT/XIT

- **[RATE]** {21} selects 10 or 50 Hz VFO/RIT tuning (pg. ??). Also see **VFO** menu entries.
- **[FINE]** {21} selects 1-Hz steps. **[COARSE]** selects large tuning steps (per-mode; pg. ??).
- Tap **[FREQ ENT]** {21} to enter frequency in MHz using numeric keypad. Tap return (**[↵]**) to complete the entry, or tap **[FREQ ENT]** again to cancel. (Pg. ??.)
- Hold **[SCAN]** to start/stop scanning. SCAN must be preceded by a memory recall (pg. ??).
- The **[RIT]** and **[XIT]** offset knob {17} has LEDs that show -/0/+ offset (pg. ??). Tap **[CLR]** {16} to zero the offset. *Hold [CLR] for > 2 sec.* to add the offset to VFO A, then zero it.

XMIT and ANT Controls

- The TX LED {4} indicates that the K3 is in transmit mode. The Δf LED turns on if the RX and TX frequencies are unequal (SPLIT, RIT/XIT, cross-mode, etc.). (Pg. ??.)
- **[XMIT]** {8} is equivalent to PTT {35}. Hold **[TUNE]** to put out full CW power.
- Tap **[ATU TUNE]** {8} to auto-tune (KAT3). Hold **[ATU]** to select normal/bypass ATU mode.
- **[ANT]** to selects **ANT1** or **ANT2** (KAT3). **[RX ANT]** selects main or **RX** antenna (KXV3).

NB, NR, and Notch (?)

- Tap **[NB]** {12} to turn on DSP and/or I.F. noise blanking. Hold **[LEVEL]** to set NB levels using VFO A (DSP) and VFO B (I.F.). Fully CCW is **OFF** in both cases. (Pg. ??.)
- Tap **[NR]** {12} to turn on noise reduction. Hold **[ADJ]** to tailor noise reduction for the present band conditions (pg. ??).
- Tap **[NTCH]** {12} once to select auto-notch (**NTCH** icon), and a second time to select manual notch (adds **< >** icon). Hold **[MAN]** to adjust manual notch frequency. (Pg. ??.)

SPLIT, BSET, and SUB

- Hold **[SPLIT]** {13} to enter split mode (RX on VFO A, TX on VFO B). If VFOs A and B are on different frequencies in SPLIT mode, the Delta-F LED (??) will turn on (pg. ??).
- Tap **[BSET]** {13} to adjust VFO B settings independent of VFO A (pg. ??).
- Tap **[SUB]** {20} to turn on the subreceiver (pg. ??). VFO B controls its frequency.
- The subreceiver can use its auxiliary input or share antennas with the main receiver. Which antennas are available to main and subreceivers depends on installed options (pg. ??).

Memories, Messages, and DVR (?)

- To store a frequency memory, tap **[V > M]** {14}, then: tap **[M1]-[M4]** {15} to save a per-band quick memory; **or** tap **[0]-[9]** to save a general-purpose quick memory; **or** rotate VFO A to select from memories 0-99, then tap **[V > M]** again to save. Tap **[M > V]** to recall. (Pg. ??.)
- **[M1]-[M4]** and **[REC]** {15} are also used to record and play CW or voice messages. The KDVR3 option is required for voice messages and audio record/playback (pg. ??).

Menus (?)

- **[MENU]** & **[CONFIG]** {8} access the **MAIN** and **CONFIG** menus. VFO B selects entries; VFO A changes parameters. **CONFIG** menu entries are used less often.
- Tapping **[DISP]** {8} within menus shows information about each entry on VFO B (pg ??).
- Up to 10 menu entries can be assigned to programmable function switches. **[PF1]** and **[PF2]** {16} are dedicated to programmable functions. Any of **[M1]-[M4]** {15} can be used as *Tap* and/or *Hold* programmable functions if they're not being used for message play (pg ??).

Other Features

- **RX** and **TX EQ** (**MAIN** menu) provide 8 bands of receive/transmit equalization (pg. ??).
- Tap **[AFX]** {18} to enable binaural audio effects (**AFX MD** menu entry. pg. ??).
- Tap **[DISP]** {8} and use VFO B to show time, supply voltage, etc. on VFO B (pg. ??).
- The **ALARM** function (**MAIN** menu) can be used to remind you about a contest, net, or QSO schedule. The K3 will be turned on automatically if it is off at the time of alarm.