

Kenwood TH-D74 Packet Setup

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Kenwood TH-D74 with Winlink / RMS Express

GARS Kenwood TH-D74 Owners:

For some period of time I have been working with my Kenwood TH-D74 HT to get it playing with Winlink / RMS Express to take advantage of it's internal KISS TNC. With some blog guidance from a Swiss Ham I have it working and succeeded in sending my first TH-D74 based RMS Express packet session message.

So what did it take? If you have not yet figured out the secret sauce:

1. TH-D74 must have firmware version 1.06 or newer!
2. Bluetooth or USB connection to the PC
3. Configure the TH-D74 following HB9ODI's configuration instructions

Enjoy!

Mark / N7GRB

HB9ODI's blog: <https://hb9odi.com/2017/06/17/winlink-ueber-bluetooth-mit-dem-kenwood-th-d74/>

[MTB Note: In the event HB9ODI's blog disappears, here's an English language translation with some additional comments from my experience. His blog has a few illustrations / screen captures and a bit more detail.]

Kenwood TH-D74 Settings

Interface

- 980 USB Function COM + AF / IF Output
- 981 PC Output (GPS) Bluetooth
- 982 PC Output (APRS) USB

- 983 KISS Bluetooth
- 984 DV / DR USB

TNC (Under APRS menus)

- 505 Data Speed 1200bps
- 506 Data Band A Band [MTB note: I successfully used A and B]

GPS

- 400 Built in GPS ON
- 401 My Position GPS
- 402 position Ambig. off
- 403 Operating mode Normal
- 404 battery saver Auto
- 405 PC Output On
- 406 sentence All activated [MTB note: I only had GPGGA and GPRMC enabled]

PC Host Software

Kenwood Drivers

Download and install the Kenwood USB virtual drivers, follow Kenwood's instructions:

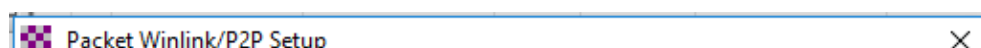
http://www.kenwood.com/i/products/info/amateur/thd74_vcp_e.html

WinLink

Now for the settings in Winlink. You should have the WinLink settings for your station info setup.

After opening a packet session, go into the session setup where the following settings are made:

- Pack TNC Type KISS
- Packet TNC Model NORMAL
- Serial Port: The port obtained by the pairing.
- Serial Port Baud 19200 (any baud using bluetooth)
- [MTB Note: IPoll off]



TNC Connection

Packet TNC Type:

Packet TNC Model:

Serial Port:

Serial Port Baud:

AutoConnect Time:

If Auto Connect is enabled, open session when Winlink Express is started

TNC Parameters

1200 Baud 9600 Baud

TX Delay (Milliseconds):

Maximum Packet Length:

Maximum Frames:

Frack:

Persistence:

Slot time:

Maximum Retries:

Disable Xmt Level Adjust Transmit Level:

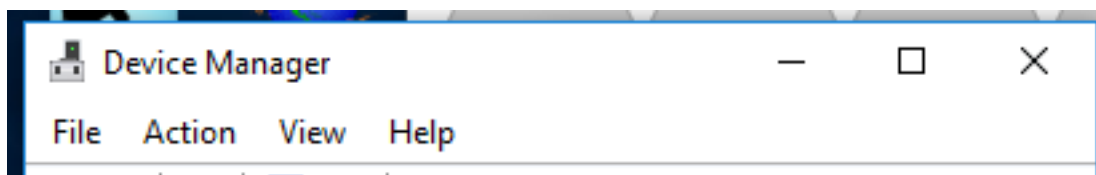
Enable IPoll

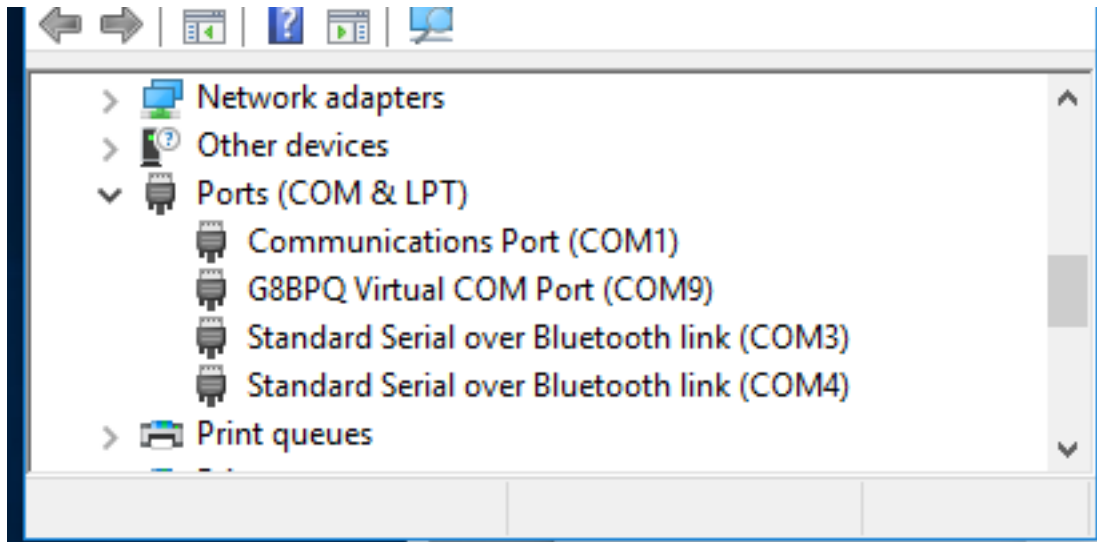
Operation Notes

Pairing

After the TH-D74 settings have been changed, the TH-D74 is paired with the PC. The pairing mode is activated in menu item 934. Once activated, the TH-D74 will be visible to the PC for 60 seconds.

In Device Manager now appear 2 new Bluetooth Com ports, the lower Com Port is usually the port which is to be used. In my case, these are ports 3 and 4. [MTB note: The lower port did not work for me, the higher did, some experimentation required.]





Activate the KISS TNC in the TH-D74

1. Hold down the function key and press number key 5 until the display shows KISS 12 (not APRS 12).
 - If KISS 96 appears on the display, this can be found in the menu item 505 to be changed.
2. Any setting changes in the WinLink packet session will cause the TH-D74 to fall out of Kiss 12 operating mode. Keep watch on the radio's Kiss 12 mode setting!

