

# **MAGNUM S-6**

AM/FM 10 METER MOBILE AMATEUR TRANSCEIVER

# **OPERATING MANUAL**



**MAGNUM INTERNATIONAL**

a division of RF Limited

## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase of a Magnum S-6 AM/FM 10 meter transceiver. Your Magnum S-6 is designed to provide years of enjoyment and trouble-free service. There are many features and functions designed into this transceiver. To ensure that your investment is enjoyed to its fullest extent please take a few moments and thoroughly read this manual.

Your Magnum S-6 is a combination microprocessor and phase-lock loop (PLL) controlled radio combining both high RF performance with a user-friendly front panel. The Magnum S-6 is built rugged to withstand years of use in harsh mobile environments. Although engineered with mobile use in mind the Magnum S-6, with the addition of a high quality 10 amp regulated power supply, may be easily adapted to fixed station operation.

**IMPORTANT:** The Magnum S-6 is designed for entry level amateur use. If the transmitter is operated in the United States or within it's territories a licensed amateur radio operator must be present at the station. The minimum license class to operate 10-meter phone is Novice/Technician. If you are studying for your license and want to familiarize yourself with the operation of the radio, the receiver may be operated with or without a licensed operator present. For more information regarding FCC licensing, contact your nearest amateur radio dealer, or for complete details contact the American Radio Relay League.

American Radio Relay League (ARRL)  
225 Main Street  
Newington CT 06111

Telephone 860-594-0200  
Facsimile 860-594-0259  
<http://www.arrl.org>

## LIMITED WARRANTY

Magnum International warrants this product to be free of defects for a period of one (1) year from the original date of purchase. This warranty is non-transferable. This limited warranty is subject to repair or replacement of defective components only. This warranty is void if the radio has been tampered with or misused.

### ***IMPORTANT: RETAIN YOUR SALES RECEIPT***

The enclosed warranty registration form must be filled out and mailed along with a photocopy of your sales receipt within 15 days from the purchase date. If the warranty registration form and copy of your sales receipt are not received the radio is not covered under warranty. Please fill out the enclosed warranty registration form and send it along with a copy of your sales receipt to:

Magnum International  
PO Box 445  
Issaquah WA 98027

Registering your Magnum S-6 with Magnum provides several benefits:

- 1) Validates your warranty.
- 2) Entitles you to free updates and information regarding your radio and new accessories for your radio.
- 3) Provides possible recovery of lost or stolen radios through our serial number tracking database.

# INSTALLATION

## 1. Contents

Unpack and inspect your Magnum S-6 for missing or damaged components. Your Magnum S-6 includes the following items:

Quantity	Description
1	Magnum S-6 Transceiver
1	Dynamic Microphone
1	DC Power Cord with Inline Fuse
1	Mounting Bracket with Hardware
1	Microphone Hanger with Hardware Set
1	Operating Manual with Schematic
1	Warranty Registration Form

## 2. Microphone Hanger

The microphone hanger may be attached to the side of the transceiver, or any other convenient location. Locate the mounting holes on the side of the transceiver. Use the provided screws to attach the microphone hanger either vertically or horizontally to the side of the transceiver.

## 3. Mounting

When attaching the Magnum S-6 mounting bracket to the vehicle, choose a location that will provide easy access to all front panel controls and air circulation to the rear panel. When selecting a mounting location, make sure that there is ample space behind the unit for the cables. Do not pinch, or bend sharply, the power or antenna cables. Do not install the Magnum S-6 in any compartment that restricts airflow and do not install in a location that interferes with the safe operation of the vehicle.

Attach the mounting bracket to the vehicle first then mount the Magnum S-6 to the bracket. If the rear panel is not accessible you may want to attach the power and antenna cable prior to mounting.

## 4. Electrical Connections

The Magnum S-6 is designed to work on any 12 - 14.5 volt DC, negative ground, source. The condition of a vehicle's electrical system can affect operation. A low battery, worn generator/alternator, or poor voltage regulator will seriously impair the performance of the transceiver. Any of the above conditions could result in a high level of receiver noise generation or a substantial loss of the transmitter's RF output. Make sure that all of these components of your vehicle's electrical system are in good condition prior to installing the transceiver.

### CAUTION!

**VOLTAGE EXCEEDING 15 VDC WILL DAMAGE THE RADIO. MEASURE VOLTAGE AT BATTERY TERMINALS, WITH VEHICLE RUNNING, PRIOR TO INSTALLATION!**

Before making any electrical connections make sure the volume (VOL) control is in the "OFF" position. Connect the positive (+) red wire of the DC power cord to a positive 13.8 volt source at the vehicle fuse block. If connecting to the fuse block, it is recommended that a switched power source is used so that the power to the transceiver is disconnected when the vehicle is off. This will eliminate the possibility of the transceiver draining the vehicle's battery.

Connect the negative (-) black wire to a metal part of the vehicle's frame, or chassis ground. Make sure that this is a good ground connection.

The Magnum S-6 power cord may also be connected directly to the battery. Connecting directly to the battery has several benefits, the first of which is to maximize RF output. Secondly, the battery is a very large capacitor and will help eliminate certain types of ambient and vehicle noise. If connecting directly to the vehicle's battery, additional power cable may be required. On runs of 8 feet or less use 14-gauge stranded wire. Use 12-gauge wire on longer runs.

## 5. Antenna Connection

The transceiver will operate using any standard 50-ohm ground-plane, vertical, mobile whip, long wire or similar antenna. The antenna should be rated at 50 watts PEP minimum. A standard SO-239 type antenna connector is located on the rear panel of the Magnum S-6. Connection is made using a PL-259 and high-grade coaxial cable (RG213, RG58A/U or Mini RG-8 is recommended).

A ground-plane antenna provides greater coverage and is recommended for fixed station-to-mobile operation. For point-to-point fixed station operation, a directional beam antenna operates at greater distances even under adverse conditions. A non-directional antenna should be used in a mobile installation; a vertical whip is best suited for this purpose. The base loaded whip antenna normally provides effective communications. For greater range and more reliable operation, a full quarter wave whip may be used. Either of these antennas uses the metal vehicle body as a ground plane.

Once the antenna is mounted on the vehicle, route the coaxial cable so that it is not next to any power cables or vehicle cables. Connect the PL-259 to the antenna connector on the rear panel of the Magnum S-6. Make sure that the cable does not interfere with the safe operation of the vehicle.

## **6. VSWR**

Before use, it is important to determine the antenna system's VSWR (voltage standing wave ratio). You will need a high quality SWR bridge (meter) to accurately tune your antenna system. First, make sure the SWR bridge is in good working order and is calibrated. To ensure your radio is performing properly the VSWR should never exceed 1.5 to 1. Never transmit on any antenna system where the VSWR exceeds 1.8 to 1. This will stress the output stage and could destroy the RF transistors; this type of misuse and failure is not covered under warranty.

Measure the VSWR at the center of the operating band. Tune the antenna (according to the antenna manufacturer's tuning instructions) so that the VSWR is as close to 1 to 1 at the center of the operating band.

Next, measure the VSWR at the lowest and highest frequency of the transceiver. If the antenna has a wide enough frequency range and band-pass, the VSWR readings should be below 1.5 to 1 across the entire operating band. If at the lower or upper end of the transceiver operating frequency, the VSWR measures more than 1.5 to 1, it is recommended that the antenna be re-tuned before operating on those frequencies.

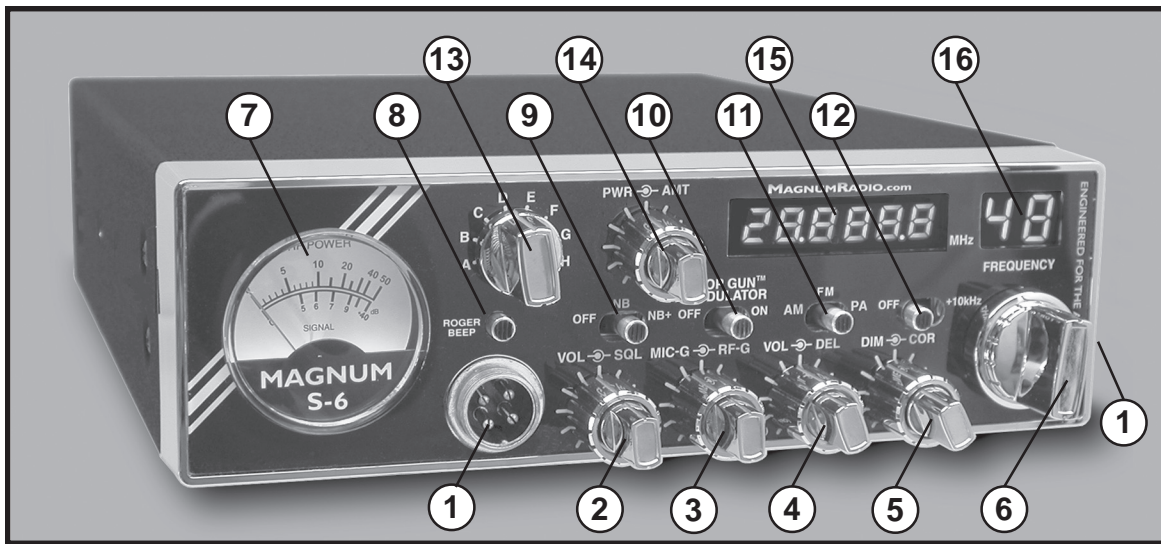
If you are experiencing unusual VSWR readings check for the following possible problems:

- 1) Make sure that the antenna is installed properly and grounded.
- 2) Check all coaxial cable and connectors for defects and poor routing.
- 3) If testing a vehicle installation, make sure that all vehicle doors are closed when testing.
- 4) Do not test near or around large metal objects or buildings.

## **7. Ignition Noise**

In certain vehicle installations, electrical noise or interference may be present in the receive audio of the transceiver. Typically the vehicle's ignition system or more specifically the alternator generates this noise. The Magnum S-6 is equipped with a noise blanker circuit that is designed to reduce, and in many instances eliminate, this electrical noise.

In extreme cases, the noise blanker may not eliminate all the electrical noise. In such cases, an alternator/ignition noise filter can be used. The PLF-10C FilterCord by Magnum International is designed for use with the Magnum S-6 and is an effective way to eliminate alternator and ignition noise problems.



## FRONT PANEL CONTROLS

### 1. DOUBLE-BARREL™ MICROPHONE INPUTS

The S-6 features TWO 4-pin, lock ring type, microphone inputs - front panel mounted and right side for co-pilot use. Double Barrel jacks also allow simultaneous use of stock microphone and an aftermarket microphone.

Microphone wiring is as follows:

- Pin 1 : Ground
- Pin 2 : Microphone Audio
- Pin 3 : Transmit
- Pin 4 : Receive

### 2. (OFF)VOL $\rightarrow$ SQ

**(OFF):** Turns the radio on and off. Rotate the control counterclockwise until it clicks.

**VOL:** Volume. Adjusts the AF gain, or volume of the receive audio. Turn clockwise to increase and counterclockwise to decrease.

**SQ:** Squelch. Used to eliminate background or “white” noise when monitoring strong signals. To properly adjust the squelch circuit, start rotating the control slowly clockwise until the received white noise disappears.

### 3. MIC-G $\rightarrow$ RF-G

**MIC-G:** Microphone Gain. Increases or decreases the energy developed in the microphone amplifier circuit. The gain increases as the control is rotated clockwise. For optimum setting, press the push-to-talk switch on the microphone and speak in a constant tone into the microphone. A good test tone is to say the word “four” in a long, drawn out tone. While speaking, rotate the mic gain control clockwise until the meter needle reaches maximum deflection. Next, rotate the control counterclockwise approx. 1/16 inch. The transmitter will now be putting out its maximum rated power.

**RF-G:** RF Gain. Adjusts the receiver sensitivity to both signals and background noise. This affects the distance at which a signal can be detected. Turning the control counterclockwise reduces the receiver sensitivity. This is particularly useful in areas where large volumes of traffic (signals) are present.

### 4. VOL $\rightarrow$ DEL

**TURBO™ Digital Echo** is a Magnum radio exclusive feature. The **TURBO™ Digital Echo** is louder, more adjustable, and better sounding than any other echo processor available.

**VOL:** Echo Volume. Varies the volume or number of echo repetitions. To increase the echo volume, rotate the control clockwise.

**DEL:** Echo Delay. Varies the amount of delay, or duration of the echo repetition. Rotate clockwise to increase the amount of delay and counterclockwise to decrease.

### 5. DIM $\rightarrow$ COR

**DIM:** Continuously variable dimmer control for front panel lights and displays.

**COR:** The clarifier shifts both the transmitted and received frequency in all modes. The COR (course) tuning shifts a total of +/- 2.5 KHz.

### 6. FREQUENCY: Rotate clockwise or counterclockwise to select the desired frequency.

## 7. S/R/F/SWR Warning Meter:

The meter indicates relative receive signal strength, RF output power, and high SWR (standing wave ratio). The meter features blue backlighting on receive and red back lighting on transmit.

The meter features 2 scales, the lower scale indicates relative signal strength (S units) for received transmissions. The top scale indicates the RF output power of the Magnum S-6.

If the antenna system's VSWR is too high, the meter will FLASH red on transmit. This indicates that the system's VSWR is too high and potentially damaging to the radio. See rear panel instructions (#3) on pg 7.

8. **Roger Beep:** The Roger Beep switch activates the end of transmission, or roger beep, tone. When activated a 1kHz tone will automatically transmit upon the release of PTT switch. This notifies contacts that your transmission has ended and you are ready to receive their signal.

9. **OFF-NB-NB+:** Noise Blanker and Automatic Noise Limiter. In the NB position, only the noise blanker is ON. In the NB+ position, both the noise blanker and automatic noise limiter are ON. The noise blanker circuit eliminates pulse type interference usually associated with automotive ignition systems.

The NB+ position also turns off the frequency counter display.

10. **TOP GUN™ MODULATOR ON-OFF:** The TOP GUN™ Modulator feature makes AM mode communications more efficient and effective. When turned on, the modulator circuit allows the AM carrier to be turned down to 1 to 1.5 watts, while still maintaining the peak output power of 45 watts of modulation (45 watts of swing). To turn the TOP GUN™ Modulator feature on, turn the switch to ON. Next, use the PWR control to set the level of AM carrier you want. Even when the PWR control is set to 1 to 1.5 watts, the radio (with the Modulator circuit turned on) will provide the maximum peak output power of 45 watts.

## 11. AM/FM/PA Mode Selector

**PA:** Public Address Mode. To operate PA, insert a public address speaker or horn into the PA jack on the rear panel of the transceiver.

12. **+10kHz-OFF:** In the +10kHz position, the frequency is shifted up 10 kHz.

## 13. BAND

Use to select the following band segments (frequency groups).

<u>Band</u>	<u>Frequency Range</u>
A	28.065 - 28.505 MHz
B	28.145 - 28.585 MHz
C	28.165 - 28.605 MHz
D	28.085 - 28.525 MHz
E	28.065 - 28.505 MHz
F	28.145 - 28.585 MHz
G	28.165 - 28.605 MHz
H	28.085 - 28.525 MHz

## 14. PWR ➡ AMT

**PWR:** Variable RF Output Power. The transmitted power of the Magnum S-6 may be varied from 0 to 40 watts peak in all modes. Rotate clockwise to increase RF output power. Rotate counterclockwise to decrease RF output power.

**AMT:** All Mode Talk Back. AMT, a Magnum exclusive, is an independent talk back monitor. The AMT functions in all modes and allows the operator to monitor the transmitted audio of the Magnum S-6. To increase the volume of the talk back rotate the control clockwise. To decrease rotate counterclockwise. To turn off the talk back rotate the control completely counterclockwise.

## 15. 6-DIGIT FREQUENCY COUNTER

## 16. 2-DIGIT CHANNEL DISPLAY

# REAR PANEL

## 1. External Speaker Jack

An external speaker jack is located on the rear panel of the transceiver. The Magnum S-6 is designed to accept any standard 8 ohm external speaker for use with two-way transceivers.

## 2. Public Address (PA) Horn Jack

A PA horn jack is located on the rear panel of the transceiver. The Magnum S-6 is designed to accept any standard PA horn for use with two-way transceivers. To operate in PA mode, please refer to the previous instructions.

### **3. SWR LIGHT ON/OFF SWITCH**

The S-6 is equipped with an automatic HIGH VSWR warning circuit. In the event of an abnormally high VSWR condition the red transmitter light that illuminates the meter will start flashing. It is strongly recommended to correct the problem quickly as transmitting with a high VSWR will stress and shorten the life of the RF transistors.

The on/off switch on the rear panel of the radio turns off the flashing red high VSWR indicator. Please note that this only turns off the indicator light and does not solve any problems that may exist with the radio and antenna system.



## GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

Antenna Impedance	: 50 ohm, unbalanced
Frequency Control	: Digital Phase-Lock Loop (PLL) Synthesizer
Frequency Accuracy	: Better than +10 ppm from 0 - 40 °C after 15 min. warm up
Power Requirement	: 12 - 13.8 V DC, negative ground
Current Consumption	: 7 amps maximum
Dimensions	: 7.75 x 2.5 x 10.75 in (W x H x D)
Weight	: 4 lbs

## TRANSMITTER SPECIFICATIONS

Power Output	: FM ..... 40 Watts
	: AM ..... 9 Watts Average / 45 Watts PEP
Final Transistors	: 2SC1969 (x2)
Spurious Emissions	: More than 50 dB below peak output power
Carrier Suppression	: More than 40 dB below peak output power
Unwanted Sideband	: More than 50 dB below peak output (1 kHz tone)
FM Deviation	: +/- 2 kHz maximum
Audio Response	: More than 30dB below peak output
Frequency Response	: 400 to 2800 Hz
Microphone Impedance	: ECM, 600 to 1K ohms

## RECEIVER SPECIFICATIONS

Circuit Type	: Dual-Conversion Superheterodyne
Intermediate Frequencies	: 1st IF ..... 10.695 MHz
	: 2nd IF ..... 455 kHz
Sensitivity	: AM ..... 1.0 $\mu$ V at 10 dB S + N/N
	: FM ..... 0.3 $\mu$ V at 12 dB SINAD
Selectivity	: AM / FM ..... 6.0 kHz (-6 dB) / 18 kHz (-60 dB)
Clarifier Range	: +/- 2.5 kHz (Course)
Adjacent Channel Rejection	: Better than 70 dB
IF Rejection	: Better than 80 dB for all frequencies
Frequency Response	: 250 to 3000 Hz
Audio Output Power	: 2 watts minimum at 10% THD with an 8 ohm load
Audio Output Impedance	: 8 ohms

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## MAGNUM INTERNATIONAL

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