

Yaesu FTTALK v1.9

This program is designed to allow simple operation of a Yaesu Ftxx Radio for the blind, using single key presses to select most options and should work with many modern Yaesu radio's, it has been tested on a Yaesu 991A but should work with the FT710, FTDX10, FTDX101D/MP and the FT891, there is also a version FT5Talk which will work with the FTDX5000 and a version FT4Talk which will work with the FT450. One or other of the programs may well work with other Yaesu transceivers. It will not work with the FT817 or FT818 for example which use a completely different command set.

Preparing your Radio

if you are going to use the 9 pin serial port connector on your radio then you need to set the following menu item in the radio. Cat Rate 38400 or whatever speed you want to use, though I strongly recommend 38400 Baud and then connect the 9 pin serial port to a serial port on your computer or via a serial to USB adapter to a USB port on your computer. If you are planning on using the USB connection on your radio then you also need to set the following menu items in the radio. USB GPS/232C to RS232C, then 232C Rate to 38400 and as for the nine pin connection CAT Rate to 38400 plus setting CAT RTS to off/disable. Now you can connect a standard USB cable between the USB port of your radio and a usb port on the computer. Windows will select a driver for the radio port and it may work okay though Yaesu recommend downloading and installing the Yaesu com port driver to use the cat functions.

FTTALK is a Windows program and should run fine on all version from XP onwards, so also Windows 7, 8, 10 and 11 though it has only been tested on windows 10 and 11.

Setting up the config file

Unzip the FTTALK folder onto your computer.

Use a text editor to change the first line in fttalk.cfg to match your comport between 1 and 99 and the second line Serial speed for the radio, I recommend 38400.

The third line power should be set to the power level you want to use when you first connect the program to the radio between 5 and 100. Initially this value is set to 100 watts (200 Watts for the FT5000)

The fourth line is swr and if set to 0, in tune mode you have to press the S key to hear the SWR but if you set it to 1 then when in tune mode the SWR is repeated continually until you exit tune mode, allowing you to tune a manual ATU.

The fifth line is ATU and when set to zero the program will use the automatic ATU built into your radio or if your radio doesn't have an automatic ATU set to 1 the program will expect you to use an external manual ATU to tune your antenna. My recommendation is if your radio has an automatic ATU then set the SWR to 0 and the ATU to 0 then when you press T the radio will do an auto tune of the antenna and if you want the SWR just press S. If you have a manual ATU then I recommend setting both SWR and ATU to 1. When you press T then the radio will be put into transmit mode and the SWR will be continually repeated so you can adjust your manual ATU for best match.

As this program can be used with many different models of radio, some only cover the bands up to 10 metres, some also cover 6 metres and others 2 metres and even up to 70cm. So set the sixth parameter to the maximum band your radio can handle. So 10, 6, 2 or 70. the seventh parameter is Auto on if set to 0 nothing happens but if set to 1 then when you start the program it will turn the radio on and when you quit the program with Q it will turn the radio off.

Using FTTALK

Start the program with the FTTalk executable file, you can exit the program at any time by hitting the Q key.

The program will connect with your radio and announce connected if it is successful in communicating with the radio.

You can voice the help file at any time by hitting the H key.

You put the program into various modes by a single key press and when you use the program for the first time it will initialize on 40 metres. While

using the program if you return to a band you have already used then it will return to the last frequency and mode you used on that band.

In this **Frequency mode** which you can re-enter at any time by hitting the F key the left and right Cursor/Arrow keys change the frequency by plus or minus 100Hz the up and down Cursor/Arrow keys by 1Khz, the Page up and Page down keys by 10Khz unless you are on 2 metres or 70cm in FM in which case the Page up and Page Down change the frequency in 12.5Khz steps. The plus and minus keys change the frequency in 1Mhz steps.

If you tune the radio using the main tuning knob the program will follow the frequency changes and if you stop tuning on a station and want to know the frequency just hit the F Key. You can get the **S meter** reading at any time by hitting the S key.

Frequency Entry Mode, hitting E will put you in frequency entry mode where you can enter a frequency between 1 and 440Mhz. The Mhz and Khz values must be separated by a full stop/point so for example to go to 14.2Mhz you would enter 14.2 and then hit the Enter key to move to that frequency, or if you want to go to exactly 21Mhz then enter 21 and then the Enter key. Entering an invalid frequency the word invalid will be voiced and the entry will be ignored. If the frequency is not seen as being near an amateur band then the pre-amp will always be switched off and the radio put into USB mode. If near an amateur band then the standard mode for that band will be selected and if the band is higher than 30 metres the preamp will automatically be switched on. Pressing F will confirm that the frequency change has taken place if you want to check.

Zero Frequency, if you have been tuning manually with the knob then when you stop on a station you may not be exactly on the Khz frequency which is where most stations transmit. If you tune the audio to sound a bit high frequency and then hit the z key it will zero the frequency for you.

Modulation mode, you can change the mode at any time by hitting the M key and it will cycle through LSB/USB/CW/AM and back to LSB. Except on 10 and up where FM follows AM and then back to LSB.

In the following modes the up and down arrow keys work to increase or decrease the parameter chosen.

Band change mode by hitting the B Key. In band change mode you can go directly to any HF band by hitting one of the number keys 1 is 160Metres, 2 is 80Metres and so on with 0 being 10 metres. After selecting a band using the number keys the radio automatically returns to frequency mode. Or you can use the up and down cursor keys to change band and then F to go back to frequency mode. To reach 6 metres, 2 metres and 70cm the quickest way is to go to 10 meters with the 0 key and then hit b again and use the up cursor to go to the VHF/UHF band you want to use. Or you can use the E key for frequency entry and enter a frequency on the VHF or UHF band you want to go to. If you enter a frequency your radio can't accept then your radio and the program will stay on the last frequency you used and no change will be made.

Tip: An easy way to get to any of the VHF/UHF bands is to say for instance go to 145.5 mode FM and then hit C and 1 to store this mode and frequency in channel 1. Then wherever you are you can always go directly to 2 metre FM by simply hitting G and 1 for Go to channel 1.

The program will automatically return to the last frequency and mode you used on a band.

If you are not sure which band you are on just hit the B key again to voice the band and then F will put you back in frequency mode.

Channel Save can be selected by hitting the C key and you can then hit a number key to choose which memory channel to save the current mode and frequency in between 0 and 9.

Go to Channel can be selected by hitting the G key and then hit a number key to choose the memory channel you want to go to.

Bandwidth mode by hitting the W key. In Bandwidth mode the up and down cursor keys increase or decrease the filter bandwidth in 100Hz steps. This feature is disabled in FM mode.

Power mode by hitting the P key. In Power mode the up and down cursor keys increase or decrease the power in 10W steps. After 10 watts the next lower power is 5 watts. On the FT5000 the maximum power is 200Watts and the first step with cursor down is 100 Watts and then 10 W steps.

RF Gain mode by hitting the R Key. In RF Gain mode the up and down cursor keys increase or decrease the RF gain.

AF GAIN mode by hitting the A key. In AF Gain mode the up and down cursor keys increase or decrease the AF gain.

Tune Mode, Hitting the T key will turn on the Radio's transmitter in Tune mode so that the ATU can be used to adjust the antenna matching. If you have set the ATU parameter in the config file to 0, then the auto atu will be activated. If it is set to 1 then you have a manual ATU or you can still use this mode even with an auto ATU. Hitting T again will put the radio back into receive mode. While in tune mode if swr in the config file is set to zero then hitting S will give you the SWR of your antenna. If swr in the config file is set to 1 then the SWR will be automatically and continually repeated until you leave tune mode allowing you to match the antenna even if you are using a manual ATU.

F1 switches the **Preamplifier** on or off

F2 switches the **attenuator** on or off

F3 switches the **Noise Blanker** on or off

F4 switches the **Noise Reduction** on or off

F5 switches the **Auto Notch** on or off

F6 switches the **Speech Processor** on or off (if fitted)

Coming soon

Split frequency operation

Repeater operation

CW Auto Zero

Menu reading and writing