

BC-246 ADDENDUM

There are a lot of differences in the way the BC246 works as compared to scanners of the past. The BC246T is a different radio in concept from previous scanners we support. Scanners such as the BC250/796 etc use banks to organize the frequencies for a system. Each bank has a pre-specified number of channels. The software addresses a frequency to a specific channel, and the (limitation is) how many banks and how many per channels per bank are preset at the factory.

The BC246 uses "dynamic memory allocation". Meaning the radio has no preset organization (or) banks... and each system/bank can contain any number of frequencies (up to 150 in SC-Lite). There ARE no "empty channels" in a system, so one system/bank can contain 10 frequencies and another 100 frequencies. Both systems only allocate the space needed depending on the number of "channels".

While the Previous Scanners are basically "brainless" except for the trunking functions, the BC246 contains a "brain" and is an integral part of the memory allocation process. With previous scanners, it is possible to draw out a "memory map" in advance. With the BC246, you must be connected to the radio - and - read from the radio the "map" in order to be able to change/edit/add anything. ALL records and systems are linked to and from each other, so without connecting to the radio first, there is no way to efficiently program it with software.

Since the radio is "in command" and not the software, creating a new system is relatively easy to accomplish. Just load an RSD database, any database, and without even knowing where to place a new system, all you have to do is move to a database "grid" or tabbed location, choose to "create new system" and the radio (and) software will create a new system. Fact is to do this, you don't even have to initialize the radio to the software in order to accomplish this.

Our Scancat's support for this "dynamic allocation" alleviates a lot of the challenges associated with editing and maintaining the radio's memory. Our support for the BC246 was developed with the idea in mind that the user may already own several other scanners. If this is the case, then all the existing database information you have can be shared easily between all of your radios.

Backing up your BC246

Backing up your BC246 can be accomplished in two ways,

- 1 - Reading contents of radio into the database system

- 2 - Reading a clone file from the radio.
(see the selections on TOOLS menu)

Using Method #1

- You can make edits, changes, additions to the radio's systems and settings and reprogram the unit easily. This can be done for a single system at a time - without requiring the entire radio be reprogrammed. You can also save the contents to disk for backup and for use by other radios you own.

Using Method #1,

- you can store an entire configuration and then keep it to restore your radio as an emergency backup
- You can reprogram the entire radio after a "clone backup" - then make a CLONE file of THAT configuration
and have TWO or THREE entirely different systems that can be restored to the radio at anytime.
- You can restore a clone file from someone ELSE and use their entire radio's setups in your radio.

Using Method #2,

Read the entire radio's contents, and then store it in our "Personal database File" (RSD extension). The file can then be easily loaded and modified, and then changes per system sent back to the radio.

In addition to our standard menu and features for the other radios we support, this is a “short listing” of features specific to the BC246

Systems List Box:

Added buttons (Not present if you choose a different model radio)

Connect to Radio (Read Systems from Radio)

Create New System

Delete a System / Erase Entire Radio Memory.

Top Menu Bar (additional Selections)

Settings

(Separate window - including)

BC246 Specific settings including:

“By System settings”

Contains all the setting available for editing that are unique to that system

Names of systems, lockout, etc

“Assorted Settings”

Such as:

Backlight

Battery save

Key Beep

“Custom Search Ranges”

Change the 10 custom range searches

Edit names, frequency ranges etc.

Load / Read Radio

Update changes for a system

Read Entire Radio

Read Single System

Tools

Create Backup Clone File

This option enables you to save the entire radio’s mirror image to your hard drive for backup. In the event your radio would loose it’s memory you can simply restore the Clone contents to the radio. All settings for the radio, all systems information is saved in the clone file

The Clone files can be saved with a unique name, meaning you can have several different configurations, even entirely different locations or cities, and within a few minutes, load that configuration into the radio.

Restore Radio from a Clone File

Restore a previously saved Clone file to restore your radio, or to load an entirely different configuration, including different systems, settings etc.

Since Clone files can be saved with a unique name, you can have several different configurations, even entirely different locations or cities. You can even share clone files and load a file from someone else’s radio into yours.

QUICK START - WHAT TO DO FIRST

The BC246 is the “brains” and keeps track of all systems and settings. The radio contains the “map” of where everything is located. So the program must also know the "map" of the radio - first - before you can edit any of the systems in the unit.

To "connect" to the BC246, in order to make any changes,
Follow these simple steps and you'll be able to come up to speed quickly.

At opening Splash Screen:

1. First click on “SELECT RADIO” and choose the BC246T
2. Then Choose “Program Radio”

At Database Screen:

3. Once at the “database screen” You will see a vertical white “List Box” on the left and the Aqua colored Database grid(s) to the right.
4. Click on the button “Connect to Radio” on top of the List Box
5. Wait as the program reads in all the system information from the radio
6. Once finished, CLICK on any of the listed systems
7. As you click on a Listed System, the grid to the right will change to the appropriate system, and display all the frequencies, Talk Groups etc

Editing Existing Systems for Frequency and Talk Group information

1. Read entire radio - this populates the SYSTEM'S LIST BOX (left sided container)
2. Click on ANY system. For example if you have the BC246 “Preload”, there are 65 plus systems
3. The "click" changes the GRID/TAB to the corresponding system. If you had the entire preload of 60+ in the radio, you could click on ANY of them and instantly go to that tab/grid.
4. You can also use the Top Menu Bar to change the “view” 10 systems at a time, but using 1-10, 11-20 etc is just "extra navigation"... not the intended primary way of getting from one to the next.
5. Make any changes to frequencies, settings in the grid for those frequencies
6. Make any changes to Talk Groups, settings in the grid for those “TGID’s”
7. At Top Menu Bar choose “real/load Radio” and pick “Save Updated System to Radio”
8. Click on any other system and make appropriate changes and then save them (also) to the radio.

Creating New Systems from Radio’s internal Systems Information

1. Read entire radio - this populates the SYSTEM'S LIST BOX (left sided container)
2. Click on ANY system. For example if you have the BC246 “Preload”, there are 65 plus systems.
3. The "click" changes the GRID/TAB to the corresponding system. If you had the entire preload of 60+ in the radio, you could click on ANY of them and instantly go to that tab/grid. VOILA
4. when you have a system you want to “duplicate”, make any changes to the data and
5. click on the “Create New System” button
6. A NEW system will be “duplicated”. The new system will be appended to the existing systems. So if you have 65 systems in the radio, you will now have the new one as System 66

Create NEW Systems using RSD :”Personal Database” Files

1. Go to FILES.... Load Personal Database file and pick a file.
2. Navigate to a “grid” in the database by clicking on a Tab, using the 1-1- 11-20 etc to find the system you wish to create as a NEW System
3. Click on the CREATE SYSTEM -

- a. in a minute or less the information contained in the selected Grid will be written to the radio as a new system.
- b. The new system will be appended to the existing systems. So if you have 65 systems in the radio, you will now have the new one as System 66
4. Change to a NEW tabbed database grid
 - a. Click on the CREATE SYSTEM
 - b. in a minute or less the information contained in the selected Grid will be written to the radio as a new system.
 - c. The new system will be appended to the existing systems. So if you have 65 systems in the radio, you will not have the new one as System 66
5. Repeat this as many times as you want - each time a new system will be appended to the previous - so if you had 65 systems to start with, and create 10 new systems, you will have added system 66 through 75

Create Multiple GROUPS within a system

We can only add groups to a NEW system at this point. So here are a few steps on 'how to'. If you want to separate your system into groups, at the place in the database where you want to ADD a GROUP.

- 1- In the REC NUM column Type this "=GRP="
 - then in the description column enter "description of the group"

(EXAMPLE)

REC# column	Frequency	Description
=GRP=		NEWYORKPD"

This will create a 2ND group labled NEWYORKPD

- 2- Then follow below that with the frequencies for the 2nd group

- 3 To add a THIRD group, In the description column Type this

(EXAMPLE)

REC# column	Frequency	Description
=GRP=		NEW JERSEY PD"

This will create a 3RD group labled NEW JERSEY PD

When you are finished with the system, press the 'CREATE NEW SYSTEM" button and the new system will be created, and there will be 3 groups in all, the primary group and 2nd and 3rd with names you have assigned.

SIMILARY- FOR ADDING GROUPS TO THE TALK GROUP AREA

- 1- In the SCAN LIST column Type this "=GRP="

(EXAMPLE)

SCAN LIST column	Frequency	Description
=GRP=		NEWYORKPD"

This should cover the BC246 specifics. The rest of the Scancat-Lite-Plus instructions are available in the MANUAL

(Look in the Folder for Manuals and Help files) or they can be accessed by clicking on the HELP menu.

Thanks for your support!

Jim Springer

