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MiniBox Plus Operations Guide

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For S/N 518 and higher

Complete operating instructions for the new MiniBox Plus Spirit Communication System

MiniBox Plus Operations Guide

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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing our MiniBox Plus for your paranormal research.

We believe you will find it to be a useful tool and a new way to establish communications with entities and spirits of the dead. This device is state of the art and highly experimental. The results obtained by users in the field have been excellent, and the device is designed to be used by anyone.

This is not a toy or novelty item! There is a phenomenon at work which is not fully understood and is being researched and evaluated by hundreds of serious researchers worldwide. The process at work here is not new, and the principles used in the MiniBox date back to the 1970's and the SpiritCom experiments. Because the phenomenon is not understood, we do not claim that this device talks to dead people, spiritual entities, or even aliens. There is no way to prove such a claim so we won't make it. We do guarantee that the device will provide some stimulating input and is particularly effective in group sessions.

Before we explain how to tune and use the Box, allow us to make some general recommendations. These are important so read them carefully before your first session.

- 1. Do not allow children under the age of 16 to use this device*
- 2. Although individual sessions are effective, small group sessions are more productive*
- 3. Limit group sessions to five or less persons*
- 4. Always use a recorder to tape all sessions*
- 5. Keep a notebook with the times and locations of your sessions.*

Ok, let's get started...

Before You Begin...

The MiniBox is equipped with a long-life sealed battery pack, the same as those used in security systems. When fully charged, the MiniBox will operate for at least 40 hours continuously, longer with intermittent use. High audio levels will increase battery usage.

The MiniBox is supplied with a wall charger. The charger will require 24 hours to recharge a completely depleted battery. Under normal usage, charging overnight will top off the battery just fine. The device was intentionally given a high capacity battery because of the possibility that energy drainage can occur during field use. The extra capacity of this battery will help prevent the MiniBox from becoming non-operational.

Do not leave the charger connected to the MiniBox all the time. Only use it when the battery needs charging, and then remove it. The battery will retain full charge for a long time while not in use. The unit is delivered fully charged and ready to go so charging it immediately is not necessary.

The Box needs to be recharged when the POWER LED fails to light. This indicates that the power in the battery has dropped below usable level. When the LED turns off, you still have about 30 minutes of usable power left.

You may operate the MiniBox Plus with the charger attached. The battery will still charge while the unit is in operation, but more slowly. It is possible to operate the unit with the charger even when the battery is completely discharged.

Avoid storing the unit in high temperatures or in freezing weather. The general rule is that if you are comfortable, the equipment will be too!

Charging is accomplished by placing the plug on the wall charger into the charging receptacle on the side of the MiniBox. Always connect the charger to the MiniBox before plugging the charger into the wall. It is normal for the charger to become slightly warm during the charging process. After charging, remove the charger from the wall socket ***before unplugging the jack from the MiniBox.*** This prevents possible damage to the charging circuits.

Limitations of the MiniBox...

The MiniBox Plus sweeps the AM radio band for signals to be used in the process of hearing spirit voices. However, the receiver used in the Box is totally unlike conventional AM radios. It uses a principle of detection that was first used in the 1920's and has been adapted to use modern components. This type of receiver is very broad-banded, which is required to get the full audio fidelity needed for spirit detection. Because of this, you need to be aware that the Box will often have whistles, groans, rumbles, and the appearance of several stations on top of each other. This is normal and to be expected. Furthermore, some cities have what are known as 'Clear Channel' stations; radio transmitters that operate at a very high power, especially at night. These transmitters will flood the Box unless the sensitivity is turned very low. Also, if you are located in a very remote location, with few radio stations, reception will be fuzzy and weak.

Use of a conventional radio receiver has proven to give irregular results when used to scan for spirit voices. While a certain amount of success can be obtained by 'manual scanning', or the use of the popular 'Shack Hack', testing has shown that more results have been obtained from the receiver we use in the Box. You need to remember that some locations will yield poor Box results due to lack of radio stations, closeness to a powerful radio station, or use on a city with a clear channel transmitter. If you encounter these problems, be aware that this is normal and not a defect of the electronics in the Box.

You can usually overcome these problems in a number of ways, used individually or together

- *Locate the Box to a different room*
- *Rotating the Box will help null out strong stations*
- *Rotating the Box will also increase strength of weak stations*
- *Use of an external antenna (included) will help when all stations are weak*
- *In the case of a single strong station, lay the Box on its back and rotate for best reception*
- *Hums, whistles, rumbles and groans are normal and do not indicate spirit activity*
- *Static will be heard if the Box is located close to machinery*
- *Precise adjustment of the **SENSITIVITY** control will help most situations*

Finally, be aware that sometimes there is no spirit activity to be heard. Although most sessions yield good results, there will be times that you will hear nothing but radio noise. Do not be discouraged. It usually takes about an hour or so of 'Box time' to get familiar with the sound of the voices and the best ways to hear them. I suggest a small group when you first use the Box. Some persons are more sensitive to the voices than others. Once you know what to listen for, the rest is simple.

Recommended Speakers

We recommend using a high-fidelity speaker for the best quality audio. Best results will be obtained by using a speaker with a 4 to 6 inch cone size, designed for good bass response. A speaker from a shelf top stereo system is ideal. We have included a speaker cable that may be used with any hi-fi speaker. Radio Shack and other similar stores have these speakers at reasonable prices.

For a simple, plug-in solution, we suggest the Radio Shack 21-549 Extension Speaker for general usage, or the 19-318 for portability. If you want to use headphones for private listening, mono headphones are recommended. You may also use a stereo headset if you obtain a mono to stereo adaptor plug..



Radio shack #21-549 Extension Speaker

MiniBox Controls



PWR LED – This is lit when power is turned on and there is sufficient battery capacity. If it does not light, it is time to recharge the battery. You may also operate the unit with the charger plugged in. The LED will illuminate when the charger is inserted and the Box is turned on.

Scan LED – This gives a visual indication of the scan. The brighter the LED, the higher on the AM band the scan is located. You will see constant variations while you are operating.

ALERT LED – Indicates that an error condition is present. Most often, it is used to show you have reached the upper or lower limit of a user setting, such as scan speed adjustment. Once the error condition is corrected, the LED turns off.

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OPT LED – Indicates that you are in the Option Select Mode. This mode is for advanced features and modifying internal settings of the Box.

MEM LED – Indicated you are in Memory Mode, where you can load and save your custom settings.

MODE LEDS – These four LEDS show which scan mode you are in. There are a total of fifteen standard scan modes.

OPTION Button – Selects the OPTION Mode, where you can make custom settings for the Box. The OPTION LED is lit whenever you are in this mode. Once you perform the selected option you are returned to your previous scan mode and scanning resumes.

MEM Button – Selects the MEMORY Mode. You can save and reload your custom configurations here. Once you perform the selected option you are returned to your previous scan mode and scanning resumes.

DOWN Button – This button is used for decreasing the scan rate for the mode you are in.

UP Button – This button is used for increasing the scan rate for the mode you are in.

MODE Button – This button steps through the fifteen standard scan modes sequentially. When you are in the last mode, the next button press takes you back to the first mode.

VOLUME Control – This turns on the power to the Box and controls the audio volume.

SENSITIVITY Control – This controls the receiver sensitivity.

MIC Jack – This is a stereo jack that allows you to add mic audio to the recorder, if you are using one. This is often used to allow the participants to directly record their questions and comments on one stereo channel, while the box audio is

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output on the other channel. See the RECORDER Jack information for more details.

RECORDER Jack – This is a stereo jack that provides direct box audio to your recorder or computer. One channel consists of audio directly from the Box. The other channel comes from the MIC Jack, which lets users record their comments and questions directly.

SPEAKER Jack – this is a mono jack that is the output for box audio. It is wired as MONO so inserting a stereo plug will NOT work properly. Since all amplified computer speakers use stereo inputs, NEVER plug amplified computer speakers in SPEAKER Jack. We recommend several different inexpensive speakers, all available from Radio Shack or other electronics stores.

Important:

If you choose to record your questions using the MIC jack you need to pay close attention to these hints.

First, either unplug the speaker or move it as far away from the mic as possible. Otherwise, speaker audio will be picked up by the mic and cover up your questions. Best results are obtained by either using an earphone or unplugging the speaker altogether.

Be sure to plug the jumper cable between the RECORDER jack on the Box to the MIC or Microphone jack on the recorder. Using the LINE or LINE INPUT jack on the recorder will not adequately pick up the microphone audio.

Finally, best results will be obtained using a STEREO microphone, even though only one channel is utilized. A MONO mic with STEREO adaptor only provides half the input level so will be faint and hard to hear on the recorder.

Unless you have a specific reason to do a direct recording session, it is simpler and easier to just place the recorder in between the Box's speaker and the users. A couple of short tests will help you locate the correct position for best possible audio pickup.

Running Your First Session

Quick Start Instructions:

1. Place the **Volume** control at 12 o'clock
2. Place the **Sensitivity** control at 12 o'clock
3. Insert the external speaker plug into the **SPEAKER** jack
4. Turn on the MiniBox Plus
5. Wait about 5 seconds for system to initialize – SCAN LED will pulse
6. Slowly reduce the **Sensitivity** until signals are almost gone, then increase slightly – no more than 1/8 turn.
7. Adjust **Volume** for comfortable listening level
8. Press the **Mode** button until you find a mode that sounds best to you

Let the unit run for a couple of minutes before asking questions. Then speak your questions in a clear voice and allow 15 to 30 seconds for an answer. You will hear constant jumbled noise but words and phrases will appear clearly within the signal.

Turning on the unit without asking questions may only yield noise, although after a while the MiniBox might call your name, or nickname, like it's trying to get your attention. This is normal, so don't be alarmed or frightened. This indicates that someone or something wants to communicate.

As you operate you may make adjustments to the **SENSITIVITY** and **VOLUME** for more clarity. Feel free to experiment with the controls to get the best responses. The MiniBox will become attuned to you after a few sessions so tuning will become easier very quickly. This is the simple basics of operation. The next section discusses what you can expect to hear and gives advanced operating hints.

The Fifteen Scan Modes

Mode 1 – Sawtooth: This mode sweeps up the broadcast band from bottom to top, drops quickly back to the bottom, and repeats. This is the simplest of the modes.

Mode 2 – Triangle: This mode is the same as used in the original MiniBox, and also in Frank's Box when not in random mode. The sweep begins at the bottom of the broadcast band, moves evenly to the top, and then sweeps back down at the same rate. For most users, and especially for beginners, this is the recommended mode.

Mode 3 – Random Jump: This is the most basic of the random modes available. A broadcast band frequency is chosen at random and the sweep jumps to it, stays for a fixed period of time, and then the process is repeated. The jump is not instantaneous, but very fast. An instant jump creates 'popcorn' noise, which is annoying to some persons.

Mode 4 – Random Ramp: This mode is similar to Random Jump except it uses slower moves instead of jumps, and then instead of remaining on the frequency, randomly picks another and 'slides' to it. The end result is a smooth and very random scan that is easy to listen to.

Mode 5 - Random Full: This mode makes everything random; the frequency selected, the speed at which it is moved to, and the amount of time it remains there. This is the most complex basic random mode.

Mode 6 – Franks Box: This mode emulates a Franks Box that is running in random sweep. Although his design is considerably different, the MiniBox can be made to operate similar to a Franks Box. You may increase or decrease the sweep with the UP and DN buttons.

Mode 7 – Popcorn: Many persons, particularly those familiar with the Shack Hack, are familiar with the crackling and popping during the sweep transition. This mode is a full random mode that has no noise suppression or filtering and has a similar sound, although it is random and not a straight sweep. NOTE: this mode is fixed and is not adjustable. Pressing **UP** and **DOWN** will have no effect.

Mode 8 – Stairstep: This mode consists of random movements up and down the AM band but the steps are large. If you could see the scan it would appear like many little stairsteps.

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Mode 9 – Sinewave: This mode uses a sine waveform for scanning. The movement is relatively slow at the top and bottom, but accelerates and moves the fastest at mid band. Many natural processes are sinusoidal in nature.

Mode 10 - Einstein Mode: This mode makes use of Einstein's famous mass into energy equation $E = mc^2$. We take random values and plug them into this equation, then normalize them to the limits of the scan margins.

Mode 11 – Exponential Mode: In this mode we take the exponential form of $n = y^x$ and then normalize it to fit the scan margins. This mode makes some drastic movements.

Mode 12 – Cubic Mode: Here we take the formula $y = x^3$ and normalize to fit the scan boundaries. This mode moves about in large jumps.

Mode 13 – Sevens Mode: This mode uses the digit seven in a variety of ways and uses a random seed for variations. Every jump to another frequency is related to the number seven in some form.

Mode 14 – Trinity Mode: This mode is based on a trinity of threes; three to the three to the three power. A random sampling of this series is normalized to fit the scan boundaries. This is a powerful scan if you are numerologically inclined.

Mode 15 – Infinity Mode: This mode is totally random and the boundaries are widened to allow scanning to the lower and upper limits of the Box. This scan is sometimes quiet, sometimes active, and is totally randomized each time the mode is started so it won't scan the same way twice.

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You can tell which mode is currently active by observing the MODE LEDES.

• Mode 1	Off	Off	Off	On	Sawtooth
• Mode 2	Off	Off	On	Off	Triangle
• Mode 3	Off	Off	On	On	Random Jump
• Mode 4	Off	On	Off	Off	Random Ramp
• Mode 5	Off	On	Off	On	Random Full
• Mode 6	Off	On	On	Off	Franks Box Emulation
• Mode 7	Off	On	On	On	Popcorn
• Mode 8	On	Off	Off	Off	Stairstep
• Mode 9	On	Off	Off	On	Sinewave
• Mode 10	On	Off	On	Off	Einstein
• Mode 11	On	Off	On	On	Exponential
• Mode 12	On	On	Off	Off	Cubic
• Mode 13	On	On	Off	On	Sevens
• Mode 14	On	On	On	Off	Trinity
• Mode 15	On	On	On	On	Infinity

Modifying a Mode

Each standard mode has variables that the user may change to suit his individual tastes. These options are outlined below for each mode. These changes will disappear when you turn off the Box, so if you want to save them, see the next section, **Memory Functions**.

A note about the UP and DN Buttons - By pressing and releasing the **UP** or **DN** buttons, you can increment or decrement the scan rate. Individual button pushes yield very small changes, so it is simplest to depress the button for a couple of seconds, release it, and listen to the change. You can add more or less by pressing the appropriate button. Note that while the button is down, the scan will freeze and not resume until the button is released.

Sawtooth Mode: You can speed up or slow down the rate of scan for this mode. By pressing and releasing the **UP** or **DN** buttons, you can increment or decrement the scan rate.

Triangle Mode: You can speed up or slow down the rate of scan for this mode. By pressing and releasing the **UP** or **DN** buttons, you can increment or decrement the scan rate.

Random Jump Mode: In this mode, the **UP/DN** buttons control how long the Box remains on frequency between jumps. It has a lot of range so you can go very slow or very fast.

Random Ramp Mode: In this mode the **UP/DN** buttons control the rate that the sweep traverses from one frequency to the next. Since the frequencies are random, the Box doesn't stay at the destination, but immediately selects a new frequency and moves on. The speed of the move is controlled by the buttons.

Random Full Mode: In this mode the frequency selected, and the time spent on the frequency, are picked randomly. The **UP/DN** buttons control the rate that the sweep moves BETWEEN the frequencies.

Franks Box Emulation: Here the frequency is selected randomly and a ramped movement is made to the new frequency, creating a smooth transition. Once the destination is reached, no time is spent, but the scan moves immediately on again. The overall result is a scan that has a lot of activity and movement. The UP and DN buttons will increase or decrease the time between frequency hops.

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Popcorn Mode: (Not Modifiable) This mode is similar to Random Jump but there is no filtering during the transition between hops. This created a popping and crackly sound. People are split on this sound; some hate it, some say it is very productive. You be the judge. The UP and DN buttons have no effect in this mode.

Stairstep Mode: You can speed up or slow down the rate of scan for this mode. By pressing and releasing the **UP** or **DN** buttons, you can increment or decrement the scan rate.

Sinewave Mode: You can speed up or slow down the rate of scan for this mode. By pressing and releasing the **UP** or **DN** buttons, you can increment or decrement the scan rate.

Einstein Mode: You can speed up or slow down the rate of scan for this mode. By pressing and releasing the **UP** or **DN** buttons, you can increment or decrement the scan rate.

Exponential Mode: You can speed up or slow down the rate of scan for this mode. By pressing and releasing the **UP** or **DN** buttons, you can increment or decrement the scan rate.

Cubic Mode: You can speed up or slow down the rate of scan for this mode. By pressing and releasing the **UP** or **DN** buttons, you can increment or decrement the scan rate.

Sevens Mode: You can speed up or slow down the rate of scan for this mode. By pressing and releasing the **UP** or **DN** buttons, you can increment or decrement the scan rate.

Trinity Mode: You can speed up or slow down the rate of scan for this mode. By pressing and releasing the **UP** or **DN** buttons, you can increment or decrement the scan rate.

Infinity Mode: You can speed up or slow down the rate of scan for this mode. By pressing and releasing the **UP** or **DN** buttons, you can increment or decrement the scan rate.

If you attempt to go beyond the bottom or top limits, the **ALERT LED** will flash. You won't hurt anything, but you won't move any faster or slower from this limit.

Memory Functions

The MiniBox Plus is equipped with a special storage area that lets you save the setup of the **complete** system. This means you can make adjustments in one or more modes to suit your tastes or the locality where you are operating. Rather than having to re-enter your changes each time you start up, you can save all your settings in one of three separate user memories

These memories retain their settings when the power is off, and even when the battery is dead. These memories are easy to use and will provide you a safe place to store your settings.

When you press the MEM button, the MEM LED will light up, letting you know that you are in Memory Mode. You may exit Memory Mode at any time by pressing the MODE button.

There are a total of eight physical memories, but only seven may be permanently modified by the user. The base memory is read-only and this is where the factory settings are stored.

Memory 0: default user memory, factory preprogrammed. All changes here are TEMPORARY and will revert to factory settings after power is turned off. This is your safety net, because it ALWAYS returns to factory defaults whenever power is turned on. So if you get in a situation that you can't figure out, or want to start over with a clean slate, just turn off the power for a moment and then turn it back on.

Memories 1 through 7: User modifiable memory that can be saved and reloaded

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You can tell which memory is currently active by observing the MODE LEDS.

All selectable memories (1 through 7) may be used for read/write

Memory 1: Off Off On

Memory 2: Off On Off

Memory 3: Off On On

Memory 4: On Off Off

Memory 5 On Off On

Memory 6 On On Off

Memory 7 On On On

You can select the memory you want by pressing the UP and DN buttons. If you go too far in either direction, the display wraps back around. The buttons allow you to select the memory you want to act on, but no action is performed until you press **MEM** , **OPT**, or **ENTER**.

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When you enter the memory mode you must choose a memory location to read or write to. This is done with the **UP** and **DOWN** keys. Once you have picked the memory location you wish to use you may proceed.

Saving a Memory

If you want to **SAVE** the current settings to the selected memory, press the **MEM** button briefly. The **MEM** led will flicker for a moment indicating that the current setup in the Box has been saved to the selected memory. You will then return automatically to the scan mode.

Loading a Memory

To retrieve any memory, use the **UP** and **DN** buttons to select the memory you want to load. Then press the **OPTION** button briefly. The contents of the memory you selected will be copied to the user area. The memory itself is never modified by a load or read operation; it can only be changed if you press the **MEM** button. You will then be returned automatically to the scan mode.

Restoring Defaults to a Selected Memory

If you wish to restore original factory settings to a selected memory, press the **ENTER** key to do so. You will then be returned to the scan mode.

Option Mode Usage

This mode is used to control optional features that are currently under development. For example, the Digitally Controlled Receiver (DCR) is a newly designed receiver element offering better performance in fringe areas and in difficult environments. The characteristics of this receiver and the Omega Voice System will be controlled via the Option button and associated mode keys.

For now, this button is used for the setup functions listed below

Restoring Factory Defaults

If you wish to restore the entire system to the way it was shipped from the factory, you can do so with the following procedure:

1. Press the and release **OPT** button
2. The **OPT** led will light, showing you are in Option mode.
3. Press and release the **MEM** button
4. The leds will flash briefly and then the Box will restart
5. All factory memory settings in ALL memories will be reset to default

Calibrating the Scan Bandwidth

The MiniBox depends on AM radio stations for its source of audio and EMF signals to produce the spirit voices. Depending on your location, you may have an abundance of stations or relatively few. The number of stations and their location on the radio dial has a direct effect on the performance of the Box.

For best performance, the Box prefers having a relatively equal distribution of stations from the bottom of the scan to the top. In order to be able to have this even distribution, the Box can be calibrated to the location where it is being used. The calibration procedure allows you to set the bottom (lowest frequency) and the top (highest frequency) of the scan. All scans, whether simple or random, fall within these boundaries. The goal of the calibration procedure is to manually set the top and bottom on the highest and lowest radio stations on the band. Scanning beyond these boundaries only produces dead air, which is not useful for our purposes.

As delivered from the factory, the default scan goes from 500 KHz to 1800 KHz, which is under and over the standard broadcast band. After calibration the scan will be limited to the lowest and highest radio station on the band. The overall quality of reception of voices will be greatly improved after performing this procedure.

Note: it is not necessary to perform this procedure if you don't want to. It is not required. However, performance will be substantially better, particularly in fringe reception areas if this procedure is done..

To calibrate the high boundary of the Box:

1. Press and release the **OPT** button
2. The **OPT** led will light, showing you are in Option Mode
3. Press and release the **UP** button to enter High Calibration Mode
4. Press and hold the **DN** button until you reach a reasonably strong station
5. Using **UP** and **DN**, tune for maximum strength of this station
6. Press the **ENTER** button to record the upper boundary

To calibrate the low boundary of the Box:

1. Press and release the **OPT** button
2. The **OPT** led will light, showing you are in Option Mode
3. Press and release the **DN** button to enter High Calibration Mode
4. Press and hold the **UP** button until you reach a reasonably strong station
5. Using **UP** and **DN**, tune for maximum strength of this station
6. Press the **ENTER** button to record the lower boundary

Advanced Operating Hints

After your first few sessions with the MiniBox, several things will become apparent to you. First is that using the MiniBox is much more like playing a musical instrument than operating a piece of electronic gear. You will find that slight tuning adjustments - **Sensitivity** and **Volume** - will improve the clarity of the responses.

Use the **Volume** control to set overall loudness. The MiniBox has a powerful audio amplifier so it will be adequate in most settings.

The **Sensitivity** control will also affect the loudness, but it should be used to select the signal level of the received stations. This has a direct effect on the clarity of the voices and responses so we will spend some time discussing the proper tuning of **Sensitivity** and how it relates to **Scan Rate**.

All things being equal, the faster the **Scan Rate**, the stronger the received stations must be to form voices. If you are in an area that has good overall radio reception, you can run the **Scan Rate** faster, which will make certain responses clearer. The proper setting of the **Sensitivity** control does two things. First, it increases the strength of the received signals, and second, it increases the background noise level. Some people find that the increased level of background noise gives more 'variety' to the voice generation process, while others prefer to limit the background noise, in order to increase the clarity of the responses. This is a matter of personal taste. There is no wrong or right way. However if the **Sensitivity** is increased too much, strong signals will overload the MiniBox audio and poor clarity will result.

The **Scan Rate**, using the **UP** and **DN** buttons will be the control you will tune the most. Slower scan will yield more complete words, but the responses will take longer because the entity replying will have to choose entire words to work with. However, some really incredible replies have come from this technique, but it requires patience. As the **Scan Rate** is increased, the actual time spent scanning over a particular radio signal decreases, so words are now chopped up into syllables or phonemes. This gives the speaking entity a greater variety of raw material so responses will be more rapid, but less clear, because they are made up of word parts instead of words. Again, the rate you select is a matter of personal taste and I have had good results using both methods.

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The various Scan Modes also have a major effect on quality of received voices. Every person perceives sounds a bit differently, and the variations in scan from the variety of modes allow a great degree of personalization. There is no 'right' or 'wrong' in adjusting modes, scan rate, sensitivity and volume. You will know what works best for you. The default settings provided by the factory have been carefully selected as being effective for most people in average conditions. We recommend that you use the defaults without change for several sessions, until you get a feel for how the Box sounds. From there, make small changes, and save them in memory.

We want to stress that the first few times you use the Box you may not feel that it is working. If you hear radio stations, it is working, but you have not become accustomed to it and need to master the tuning for the best results. Our tests show that after about two hours of use everyone masters the ability to tune and have good results. You will also hear things that you do not hear on a conventional radio; hums, whistles, motorboat sounds and so on. These are characteristics of scanned AM signals and are normal. While they may seem annoying at first, your mind will tune them out after a while. These are not problems with reception, but are caused by the broad-banded characteristics of the receiver.

The MiniBox depends on the reception of AM radio signals for its operation. Areas with many radio stations will yield the quickest results. Fringe areas where AM reception is poor can be challenging but with patience you will still have responses, though they will be slower to appear. The rapidity of the reply depends on several factors, the two most important being AM reception and the willingness of the voices to answer.

The MiniBox uses a specially wound antenna that is very sensitive but is directional in nature. In a city or a location with numerous AM radio stations the orientation of the MiniBox is relatively unimportant. In the countryside you may need to rotate the Box, or lay it on its side for best reception. You can always boost the signal with the addition of an external antenna. We recommend that you keep the supplied antenna wire in your carry case. By attaching the wire to the external antenna connector on top of the Box you can increase the sensitivity substantially. We do not recommend the use of an external antenna in a metro area due to receiver overload.

Once you get accustomed to the 'voice' of the MiniBox, you will also find that certain entities will communicate more often than others. We can't tell you exactly what that means, but these voices will call you by name and attempt to carry on conversations with you. You will recognize these voices by their sound, inflections and even accents. They can be male, female or children. In one session I participated in, a spirit came through speaking fluent German. Afterwards I found out that one of the persons in the group was a German speaker.

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You see now that it is important to phrase your questions in such a way that only a few words are required for a reply. You do not need to limit yourself to yes/no questions, but avoid questions that require more than 4 or 5 words for a response. Sometimes replies are sent in several pieces, so it is always best to allow 15 to 30 seconds or so between your questions.

Like ordinary people, the spirits generating the responses you hear can be moody, cheerful, angry, and sometimes hostile. And sometimes they won't reply at all. Some voices act like they want to shock and might drop bad words into their replies.

Finally, and most important, you need to evaluate the replies and information you receive very carefully. Sometimes it is accurate; many times it is wrong or incomplete. Whether this is because of the difficulties of communication or some deeper reason is not known, but guard against believing all that you hear. Request confirmation; ask for answers to be repeated. And if you think you are being toyed with or misled, speak up and say so. This will often cause the answers to become clearer or conversely, the spirit may not say anything more.

These hints, plus practice, should make you an accomplished MiniBox user in a short time. Certain persons claim that only a gifted few can use a ghost box. That is entirely false! Every person who has used or tested the MiniBox has had results within a few minutes. No special gifts are needed to use the MiniBox; it works for everyone. If you have trouble initially, get two or three friends to sit in with you. The Box is always more talkative in a group environment.

Finally, the Box is a research tool, a window into the unknown, using some phenomenon that we do not comprehend. For more background on what is taking place within the Box, read the next section.

The Ghost Box Phenomenon

You are probably wondering exactly what makes the MiniBox work. And you are curious about what is really taking place. In this section we'll talk about that and give you some ideas for further research.

Most people, when confronted with the concept of the 'Ghost Box' will likely assume it is a fraud, a trick, or the user's imagination. Early experiments in electronic detection were fraught with fakers and hoaxes. The original SpiritCom device of the 1970's was easily duped with a remote transmitter. Frank Sumption, who has done seminal work in this field, developed the concept of using the AM radio band as a basis for entities to speak, by manipulating the received signals into phonemes which could then form words and phrases. Because the radio signals come from a known source, and the tuning is semi-random, the possibility of fraud is all but eliminated. The MiniBox is an extension of Frank Sumption's work and uses a different form of radio receiver, which has inherently less static and hiss, making the formed voices more clearly understood.

The MiniBox uses a variety of sweep signals which electronically tunes the custom designed receiver up and down the radio band. This creates a random set of vocal patterns in the receiver. These patterns, or phonemes, are used to form words and phrases. The mechanism of the forming process is not understood. Whatever it is, it works for everyone who has participated in our trials, to a greater or lesser extent.

The naysayers and debunkers claim that the responses that are heard is nothing more than audio matrixing, a product of the mind. In actuality, they are both right and wrong at the same time! Matrixing is a process where the human mind attempts to form consistent patterns from random input. It is this process that allows us to understand speech even when it is garbled or incomplete. It is the process that allows us to hear our name spoken from across the room at a crowded party, above all the chatter. What the debunkers fail to understand is that the matrixing process is permanently wired into our brains. It is there whether we want it or not and, moreover, it works with our visual acuity just as it does with our hearing. The end result is that everything we see or hear is 'filtered' by this mechanism in our brain. Reality, to us, is what we perceive it to be, and may not be absolute.

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Matrixing is programmed into our minds, we use it daily, and it allows us to make sense out of chaos. The MiniBox creates a random set of word parts, and some unknown interaction allows outside communicators to merge these parts into understandable words and phrases. So yes, matrixing is a part of the process, but it is an essential part, and we would not be able to see or hear without it.

Moving into the subatomic particle realm, current superstring theory implies multiple interconnected dimensions. This is a subatomic reality, not science fiction, and has been proven in the laboratory. In this realm, objects affect each other at great distances, and communicate their activity states over infinite distances. It is possible that all our psychic, supernatural and paranormal phenomena are based on the subatomic activities of energy and matter. So it is foolish to deny that an unknown communication mode may be at work here. Something is at work, but as yet it is not understood.

You have a wonderful opportunity to participate in truly groundbreaking research in this field. By working with your MiniBox and documenting your sessions, you will help create a database which, when joined with the sessions of others, could yield important clues to both the afterlife and interdimensional communications.

We recommend you join with others doing this research and compare notes and findings. Make your information public. Share with others; by doing so you will help advance the knowledge of one of the greatest mysteries.

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