

How-to start using DMR in Amateur Radio

There's an exciting technology that's sweeping across the Ham Radio landscape. It's called DMR. DMR stands for Digital Mobile Radio and it's really cool. By using an internet linked local repeater or a HotSpot, you can communicate with fellow hams all across the globe with clear digital communications.

Why listen to me?

Hi! My name is Ron Kochanowicz, KCØQVT, owner of BridgeCom Systems. I've been a licensed amateur since 2003. My experience with DMR began in 2009 when I attended Motorola's first ever third party MOTOTRBO app developers conference. Since that time, DMR has exploded in usage for both commercial and amateur radio because DMR is an open standard. This has allowed for many manufacturers to supply the market with low cost DMR handhelds. This has been great for amateur radio because it allows for many hams to enjoy this exciting new technology.

We at BridgeCom Systems provide DMR handheld radios. As a result, we are often asked: "How do I get on DMR? What do I have to do?" That's why I wrote this simple 'How-To' guide. I want to help you get on the air.

This 'How-to' guide is not intended to get technical nor is it intended to expose you to all the intricacies that make DMR work. I simply want to outline the steps you need to take in order to start using DMR as soon as possible.

The Steps to success!

STEP 1:

You need to get your own unique DMR ID. Visit RadioID.net, register with your amateur radio call sign and obtain a DMR ID. RadioID.net has an automated registration process to where you can instantly get a unique DMR ID. Why do you need an ID? This will allow for you to take and use your DMR radio anywhere in the world and be uniquely identified and access DMR networks to communicate. It is a must!

STEP 2:

Get a good quality DMR capable handheld radio – You need a good reliable radio that's heavily supported by the company you bought it from. Support is absolutely critical when considering the purchase of a radio, especially when it comes to DMR. You need to partner with company that's invested in your success. Because you're going to probably have a lot of questions. Oftentimes folks new to DMR will buy a low priced DMR HT on Amazon or EBay and soon after find themselves in a bad way if problems arise. They'll make effort to contact the vendor they purchased the radio from and then be told to contact the manufacturer. This creates a great amount of grief and causes a lot of people to simply give up on DMR due to no support. This can't be stressed enough in that you want to make absolute sure you partner with a good company that has the resources to help you be successful.

At BridgeCom Systems, we are committed to your success and enjoyment with DMR. Ham Radio is supposed to be fun! That's why we've partnered with AnyTone, makers of the popular AT-D878UV dual band UHF/VHF DMR radio. The AT-D878UV makes getting on DMR very easy and we support the AT-D878UV 100%. We've sold hundreds of AnyTone's AT-D878UV DMR radio and it has proven to be an extremely reliable and versatile radio. Our extensive knowledge of the AT-D878UV and DMR makes us a good partner for you. Also on our website [support page](#) we have an exhaustive video library of 'how-to' videos ranging from how to install the CPS (Customer Programmer Software) to creating your first code plug and making your first contact.



STEP 3:

Now that you have a DMR ID and a DMR Radio, what are the options for making your first contact?

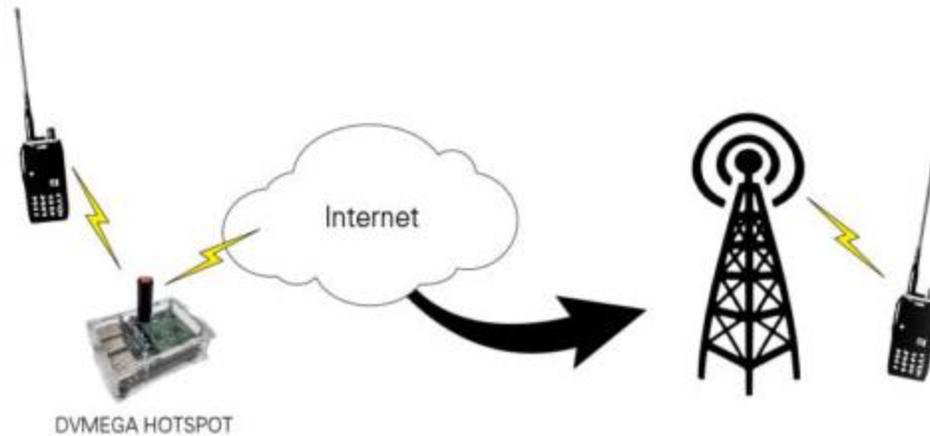
1. Local Repeater

You'll need to find a local repeater. This is not too hard. I suggest you visit www.RepeaterBook.com and search for a DMR repeater in your area. From there you can obtain the repeater credentials to create a code-plugin for your radio. Another option would be to inquire of your local amateur radio club and see if they support DMR. They should be able to steer you in the right direction. You'll want to inquire and see what talk groups are available and what color codes are used and what network the repeater is connected. Is your local repeater connected to [BrandMeister](#), [DMR-MARC.net](#), or something else?

2. DMR HotSpot

If you don't have access to a local repeater or you want to be as autonomous as possible, the BEST way to communicate worldwide is through a DMR Hotspot. A DMR hotspot is an internet based access point that allows you to use your DMR HT to communicate with other connected repeaters or HotSpots. Simply put, if you have an internet connection, you can connect to the Brandmeister network and talk all over the world. It's amazing and this pictorial below says it all. See next page:

HOW IT WORKS



If you're a Do-it-yourself kind of person, I hope this 3 step process greatly assists you in getting on the air with DMR. If it all seems overwhelming and you want to press the EASY button, BridgeCom Systems can save you a ton of time. We offer a DMR Plug-n-Play bundle that includes an AT-D878UV and a DVMEGA Dual Band HotSpot all programmed and ready to go. We can program your radio and your hotspot to 11 of the most popular talk groups on Brandmeister. As an added bonus, we'll program in your state-wide talk group so that all you have to do is plug it in and you're making a QSO. Simply supply us your DMR ID, amateur radio call sign, your Home network SSID, network password and we'll program your AT-D878UV and DVMEGA so you're up and running in no time!

Thanks for reading. I hope this helps. If you have any questions, please visit our website at BridgeComSystems.com or give us a call at 816-532-8451.