

Strong Signals

Frequency Bandplan

[Home](#)
[Contents](#)

Introduction

With more and more of us buying "communications receivers" due to their added features and flexibility, I've been getting asked a lot about the receive modes and step sizes to use for the various frequency bands.

To help provide such info in a concise manner, I have authored the following bandplan for the United States using information gathered from several resources as well as my own experience.

This is NOT an effort to micro-manage the entire frequency spectrum down to the last kilohertz. I have tried to make this table as small as possible while still relaying useful information to those who need it.

In many cases, the stated step size is not equivalent to the "real" step size but this is specified as such to get around the intricacies of those bands which do not start on an even frequency boundary (offset tuning). For this reason, I have listed the largest common denominator step size that will get the job done without having to micro-manage the most minute band details.

When using this table, keep in mind that some bands use different receive modes and step sizes within that band (like amateur radio). I have tried to select the most prominent attributes to present here and if you wish to learn more about the minute intricacies, you will be on your own!

If you have any thoughts about this table or can provide a similar set of information for your country, please e-mail me and we can work to see that it gets posted here to help out your fellow hobbyists where you live!

Enjoy!

United States Bandplan

Freq Range (MHz)		Name/User	Mode	Step (kHz)	Notes
0.10	0.53	Radio navigation	AM	5	
0.54	1.71	AM broadcast	AM	10	aka Medium Wave

1.72	1.8		AM	5	
1.8	2.0	160 meters	LSB	1	AR
2.0	2.3		AM	5	
2.3	2.5	120 meters	AM	5	
2.5	3.2		AM	5	
3.2	3.4	90 meters	AM	5	
3.4	3.5	HF Aero	USB	1	
3.5	4.0	75/80 meters	LSB	1	AR
4.0	4.65		AM	5	
4.65	4.75	HF Aero	USB	1	
4.75	5.1	60 meters	AM	5	
5.1	5.45		AM	5	
5.45	5.73	HF Aero	USB	1	
5.73	5.95		AM	5	
5.95	6.2	49 meters	AM	5	
6.2	6.52		AM	5	
6.52	6.76	HF Aero	USB	1	
6.76	7.0		AM	5	
7.0	7.3	40 meters	LSB	1	AR
7.3	8.82		AM	5	
8.82	9.04	HF Aero	USB	1	
9.04	9.5		AM	5	
9.5	9.9	31 meters	AM	5	
9.9	10.0		AM	5	
10.0	10.1	HF Aero	USB	1	
10.1	10.15	30 meters	CW	1	AR
10.15	11.18		AM	5	
11.18	11.4	HF Aero	USB	1	
11.4	11.65		AM	5	
11.65	12.05	25 meters	AM	5	
12.05	13.2		AM	5	
13.2	13.36	HF Aero	USB	1	

13.36	14.0		AM	5	
14.0	14.35	20 meters	USB	1	AR
14.35	15.01		AM	5	
15.01	15.1	HF Aero	USB	1	
15.1	15.6	19 meters	AM	5	
15.6	17.55		AM	5	
17.55	17.9	16 meters	AM	5	
17.9	18.03	HF Aero	USB	1	
18.03	18.07		AM	5	
18.07	18.17	17 meters	USB	1	AR
18.17	21.0		AM	5	
21.0	21.45	15 meters	USB	1	AR
21.45	21.85	13 meters	AM	5	
21.85	22.0	HF Aero	USB	1	
22.0	23.2		AM	5	
23.2	23.35	HF Aero	USB	1	
23.35	24.89		AM	5	
24.89	24.99	12 meters	USB	1	AR
25.99	26.965		AM	5	
26.965	27.405	CB	AM	10	11 meters
27.5	28		AM	5	Gov, Bus, Unl
28	29.7	10 meters	USB	1	AR
29.7	50	VHF-lo	FM	10	PS, Gov, Bus
50	54	6 meters	FM	10	AR
54	72	VHF TV	WFM	50	Ch 2 - 4
72	76	Land Mobile	FM	10	
76	88	VHF TV	WFM	50	Ch 5 - 6
88.1	107.9	FM Broadcast	WFM	200	
108	137	Commercial Aero	AM	25	
137	144	Military (Aero)	AM	25	
144	148	2 meters	FM	5	AR
148	150.8	US Government	FM	10	

150.8	156	VHF-hi	FM	5	PS, Bus
156	157.425	Marine	FM	25	
157.45	160.1	VHF-hi	FM	5	PS, Bus
160.2	161.6	Railroad	FM	5	
161.6	162	Marine	FM	5	
162	162.375	US Government	FM	25	
162.4	162.55	NOAA Weather	FM	25	
162.6	174	US Government	FM	25	
174	216	VHF TV	WFM	50	Ch 7 - 13
216	220	Marine	FM	25	
220	222	SMR Land Mobile	FM	5	
222	225	1.25 meters	FM	10	AR
225	328.6	Military Aero	AM	25	
328.6	335.4	Radio Navigation	AM	50	
335.4	400	Military Aero	AM	25	
400	420	US Government	FM	12.5	land & space
420	430		FM	12.5	Bus, PS, Uti large metro areas
420	450	70 centimeters	FM	12.5	AR
450	451	Aux Broadcast	FM	12.5	
451	453	Land Mobile	FM	12.5	Bus, Uti
453	454	Public Safety	FM	12.5	
454	455	Mobile Telephone	FM	12.5	
455	460	Land mobile	FM	12.5	low power
460	460.6	Public Safety	FM	12.5	
460.6	465	Business	FM	12.5	
465	470	Land Mobile	FM	12.5	low power
470	512	UHF TV	WFM	50	Ch 14 - 20
470	512	UHF "T"	FM	12.5	Bus, PS, Uti large metro areas
512	806	UHF TV	WFM	50	Ch 21 - 69
806	824	Land mobile	FM	12.5	Trunked low power

824	849	Cellular	FM	10	lower power
849	869	Land mobile	FM	10	Trunked
869	894	Cellular	FM	10	towers
894	896	Aircraft Tele	AM	1	
896	901	SMR Land Mobile	FM	12.5	Bus, low power
901	929	Pers Comm Serv	FM	12.5	
929	930	Paging	FM	12.5	
930	931	Pers Comm Serv	FM	12.5	
931	932	Paging	FM	12.5	
932	935	US Government	FM	12.5	
935	940	SMR Land Mobile	FM	12.5	Bus
940	941	Pers Comm Serv	FM	12.5	
941	944	US Government	FM	12.5	
944	952	Aux Broadcast	FM	12.5	
952	960	Mult Addr Sys	FM	12.5	paging
960	1215	Aero Navigation	FM	25	
1215	1240	GPS Satellites	FM	?	
1240	1300	23 centimeters	FM	10	AR
1300	1350	Aero Navigation	FM	25	
1350	1400	US Government	FM	?	

Notes:

- AR = Amateur Radio
- Bus = Business
- Gov = US Government
- PS = Public Safety (police, fire, EMS, highway)
- Unl = Unlicensed (pirate stations, etc.)
- Uti = Utilities (power, gas, electric, phone)

Large Metro Areas consist of:

- Boston, MA
- Chicago, IL
- Cleveland, OH
- Dallas-Fort Worth, TX
- Detroit, MI
- Houston, TX
- Los Angeles, CA
- Miami, FL
- New York, NY
- Philadelphia, PA
- Pittsburgh, PA
- San Francisco, CA
- Washington, DC

Thanks To The Following For Their Help On This Page

- Harold Coley, KD4UXQ
- Jeff Pryor
- Jon Rice, KC8FMR
- Mike Failing
- Rick Premble, W4RP