

Alinco DJ-X30T Scanner

By Larry Van Horn, N5FPW

Alinco has released a new wideband handheld scanner – the DJ-X30 – that has several innovative features not found on any other scanner in today's marketplace.

The DJ-X30 handheld offers continuous frequency coverage from 100 kHz to 1299.995 MHz (except for the mobile and base cellular bands). Reception modes include AM, narrowband FM and wideband FM. This scanner is a conventional scanner, with no trunking capability.

❖ What's in the box

The DJ-X30 box contains the following items: Instruction manual, whip antenna (SMA connector), face-panel, rubber cushion, belt clip, hand strap, and screws (one for the belt clip, and two as spares for the key cover). Unfortunately, the AC adapter is not included (an optional accessory).

❖ Features

As I mentioned in my opening paragraph, there are some neat features with this scanner. For instance, the earphone cord can be used as an antenna to receive FM broadcast and other stronger signals without using an external antenna. I did find that it provides a slight improvement in the VHF/UHF bands reception when compared to the rubber duck antenna.

When compared to its earlier DJ-X siblings, the X30 has a key pad for advanced operation, or you can replace it with a key pad cover for simpler operation. You can choose whether or not you want the keypad mounted on the radio. This easy to use design makes it simple to program the frequencies you want and those you wish to skip during the scans. You can also activate/deactivate the memory skip function on a temporary basis, so you don't have to reprogram the skip setting in the memory mode every time you want to scan more frequencies.

Another interesting feature is automatic input switching. By connecting an optional remote controller to the earphone jack and connecting an MP3 player or other portable audio device to the controller, you can listen to music and hear scanner traffic when the X30 receives a signal.

The X30 has a cable clone function that allows you to copy settings and various data to other X30 scanners. The PC connection function allows you to edit settings and data via a personal computer.

Another interesting feature is the tone

scquelch. It supports reverse tones, which are used by a lot of business communications providers. There is also a wild key function. This feature allows you to quickly jump to a frequently used set of mode functions of the operator's choosing.

Scan speed is selectable (five different levels). A faster scan speed can be used when you only want to monitor strong signals. A slower scan speed can be used to detect weaker signals.

Other features include an illuminated LCD, FM stereo earphone jack, the removable SMA antenna, 1000 alphanumeric memories, and an attenuator.

❖ Optional Accessories

There are several optional accessories for the DJ-X30. They include:

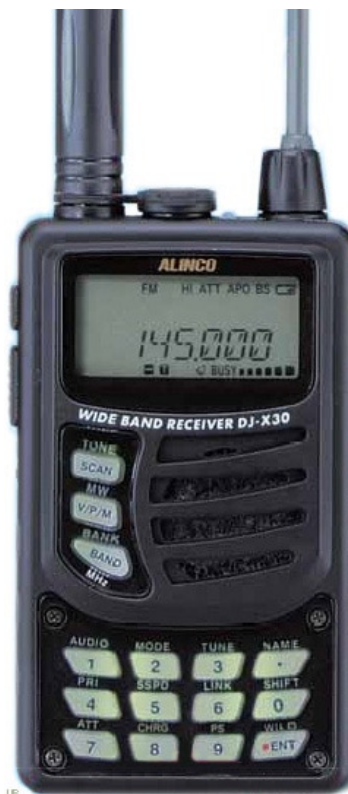
- EDS-12 Wired remote for control of basic functions.
- ERW-4C PC Interface Serial RS232 Cable [DB-9F]
- ERW-7 PC Interface USB Cable
- ESC-44 Soft carry case
- SMA-BNC This RF adapter lets you connect a BNC type antenna to the SMA antenna jack
- SMA-SO239 Low-loss 4 foot (1.2 m) LMR100 RF adapter cable to safely connect a PL259 type antenna to the SMA antenna jack

Three more accessories are not currently available, but will be released at a later date. These include:

- EBP-57N Ni-MH Battery pack 3.4V 1800 mAh
- EDC-154A Drop in trickle charger
- EDH-33 Cigar plug DC conversion cable (12VDC/24VDC to 6 VDC)

❖ Bottom Line

Out of the box, AM/Shortwave reception using the stock rubber duck or the built-in bar antenna is poor. We added a good passive



★★★★☆
Overall Rating [2-3/4 stars]

external antenna, and shortwave reception improved considerably, but the AM broadcast band reception was still poor. Using an active antenna proved to be a disaster, with the radio de-sensing due to receiving more signal than the radio could handle.

Unfortunately, there is no SSB/CW mode capability. This limits the utility of shortwave reception to only shortwave broadcast stations (about 15-20% of the shortwave frequencies covered by this unit).

Overall, I thought VHF/UHF reception was good. I was especially impressed with the FM broadcast band reception. I was able to hear several stations here in western North Carolina that I have not heard on several other scanners we have tested.

The biggest downside to this radio is the lack of trunking capability, nor does it have an APCO-25 digital decoder. This limits scanner reception to conventional, analog scanning.

The LCD screen was easy to read, programming was easy to do with the key pad installed and the manual was well written.

If you live in an area that has not moved into the trunking/P-25 communications scene,

MT First Look Rating (0-10 scale)

ALINCO DJ-X30 SCANNER

Audio Quality	7
Audio Levels	8
Backlight/Display	7
Ease of Use	7
Feature Set	5
Keyboard/Control Layout ...	8
Overall Construction	7
Overall Reception	6
Owners Manual	7
Sensitivity	5
Selectivity	6
Spectrum Usability	6

and you don't use this radio as your primary shortwave radio, the DJ-X30 is a nice wideband scanner you can carry with you.

The Alinco DJ-X30 is available from several ham radio and scanner dealers. List price is \$239.00, with a street price around \$195.00.

Table One: Miscellaneous Specifications

Receiving Range:

100 kHz to 1299.995 MHz (Cellular frequencies blocked)

Modes: FM-Wide, FM-Narrow and AM

Channels: 1000 (10 banks of 100 channels)

Tuning Steps:

5/6.25/8.33/10/12.5/15/20/25/30/50/100/125/150/200/1000 kHz (1 kHz LW/MW).

Selectivity

AM/FM: 12 kHz @ -6dB, 35 kHz @ -60 dB

WFM: 130 kHz @ -6dB

System: Triple-conversion Superheterodyne (FM-N/AM)

Double-conversion Superheterodyne (FM-W)

First IF Frequency: 243.95 MHz

Second IF Frequency: 39.15 MHz (FM-N/AM), 10.7 MHz (FM-W)

Third IF Frequency: 10.7 MHz (FM-W)

Audio Output: 100 mW 8 ohm

Antenna impedance: 50 ohms

Antenna terminal: SMA

External Supply voltage: 5.4 - 6 VDC

Internal Supply voltage: 2.4 - 3 VDC

Ground: Negative

Current consumption: 140 ma, 80 ma in standby, 26 ma battery save

Operating temperature: 14° to 140° F or -10° to 60° C

Frequency stability: \pm -7 to +3 ppm

Weight: 6 oz (65 g)

Dimension without projection:

2.28 x 3.9 x 1.26 inches (8 x 99 x 32 mm)

Specifications certified in accordance with FCC Rules and Regulations Part 15, Subpart C, as of date of manufacture. Features, specifications, and availability of optional accessories are all subject to change without notice.

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radios, Alinco
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performance and
quality can be
found in micro-
size receivers.
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all the action on
fire, public
safety, aircraft,
weather, Amateur
Radio and many
other exciting
frequencies right
into your pocket
with this trio of
high performance
wide band
receivers.*

DJ-X7T Wide Range Pocket Size Communications Receiver

**100kHz to 1.3GHz* Triple conversion AM/NFM;
double conversion WFM, plus FM, SW, and TV**

Super small "credit card" size delivers AMAZING audio quality in a size and weight (as thin as 14.5 mm, as light as 103g) that you can take almost anywhere. Easy to read illuminated LCD, 1,000 memory channels, five operating modes, three different antenna modes, easy to program with free downloadable software (optional cable required), cable-clone, and a long-lasting Lithium ion battery! Standard adapter charges the Li-Ion battery AND operates with AC power, even at the same time, so you can listen while charging.

DJ-X2000T Multimode Wide Range "Intelligent Receiver"

100kHz to 2.15GHz*

Experience monitoring on a whole new level with the DJ-X2000T "Intelligent Receiver". This triple conversion handheld receiver offers many unique features such as Flash Tune™ which locks onto nearby signals, Transweeper™ "bug" detector, and Channel Scope™ spectrum display. It also has 2000 memory channels, alphanumeric labeling, RF frequency counter, digital sound recorder, and receives AM, WFM, NFM, LSB, USB, CW and FM stereo.** Super extras include an on-line "help" feature, 20 scan programs, computer programmable capabilities (download free software from Alinco website), CTCSS decode, two level attenuator, field strength meter, and more!

DJ-X3TD Multimode Wide Range Communications Receiver

100kHz to 1.3GHz*
WFM mono and stereo, NFM, AM**

Small but powerful triple conversion receiver with excellent audio, SMA flex and internal ferrite bar antennas, large easy-to-read display, 700 memories, NiMH battery, four scan modes, and dry cell battery pack. Computer programmable with free control software from www.alinco.com

WWW.ALINCO.com

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