

Using Icom BN119N to charge battery packs FNB31 / FNB38 for FT51R

Both ICW32A and FT51R are good oldies dual band H/T with cross band repeater ability. Nowadays, even the latest VX8R or IC92A do not have this function.

In terms of function, FT51R is more interesting than ICW32A because FT51R has Code squelch function. However, the batteries for FT51R are annoying. All the battery packs and case are no longer available from Yaesu. Renovating the old battery packs are troublesome because Yaesu used rectangular shape NiCd batteries which are hard to be found.

FT51R does not even have a DC input socket on the HT which is even annoying. ICW32A has a DC input socket at the top.

On the contrary, 1000mAh 7.2v battery pack for ICW32A are easily and cheaply available from Mainland China. Icom ICT7H is still using the same battery for ICW32A.

ICOM BC119N is desktop charger for NiCd, NiMH and Li-ion battery. After studying the service manual of BC119N, I find it can be used to charge the FNB31 and FNB38. The trick is how to set the micro switches in BC119N.

Below picture shows the 4 micro switches in BC119N

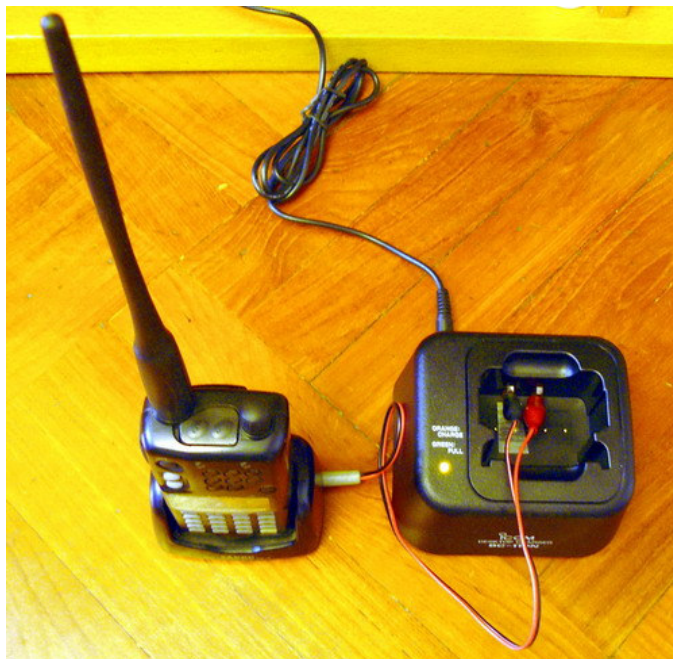


These micro switches determine the type of battery to be charged.

Simply place a Scotch tape over the second switch counting from the left as below:



Build a jumper between the original Yaesu CA-9 base charging stand and connect to the terminals of BC119N using crocodile clips. See below:



Now, I can use the BC119N to charge the battery packs from both ICW32A and FT51R. Enjoy this small modification. 73 Johnny VR2XMC