



R-143 'Bagulnik' Country of origin: USSR

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: Warsaw Pact.

Design/construction: USSR.

Year of Introduction: 1970s.

Purpose: Special forces.

Frequency coverage: 1.5-19.999MHz in 1kHz steps.

Operating modes: CW, USB, FSK.

Transmitter RF output: 1 or 8W.

Aerial: 2m Kulikov; 4m vertical rod; wire aerial with counterpoise; dipole wire aerial on 10.5m mast.

Power supply: Two 12V rechargeable batteries (composed of 10NKBN-3.5 cells, later replaced by lead battery 12V/2.2Ah type MP2, 2-12) carried in a compartment at the rear of the set.

Alternatively an external 24V DC source.

Size (cm): Height 10.5, length 35, width 31.

Weight: 11kg.

Accessories: Headset and microphone assembly plus one spare, Morse key, Kulikov and rod aerial, remote aerial base and connection cable, dipole wire aerial, spare 12V batteries, set of hand tools, operator lamp, external battery in box with connector, running spares.

Remarks

The R-143 (Russian P-143, covert name Bagulnik (Багульник) = Ledum), was a fully transistorised self contained HF manpack transceiver. It was primarily designed and used for communication by special forces e.g. forward reconnaissance. The set was a successor of the R-129 and used in a similar role.

Two 12V rechargeable batteries powered the R-143. On receive only 12V was used with both batteries connected in parallel, for transmit however, 24V was required. In transmit position a relay connected the batteries in series. The power on/off- switch and 24V power socket were located at the left hand side near the battery compartment at the rear of the set.

The frequency was selected by four decade switches. A switch marked '0/1', left of the frequency switches, changed between 1.5-10 MHz and 10-20 MHz.

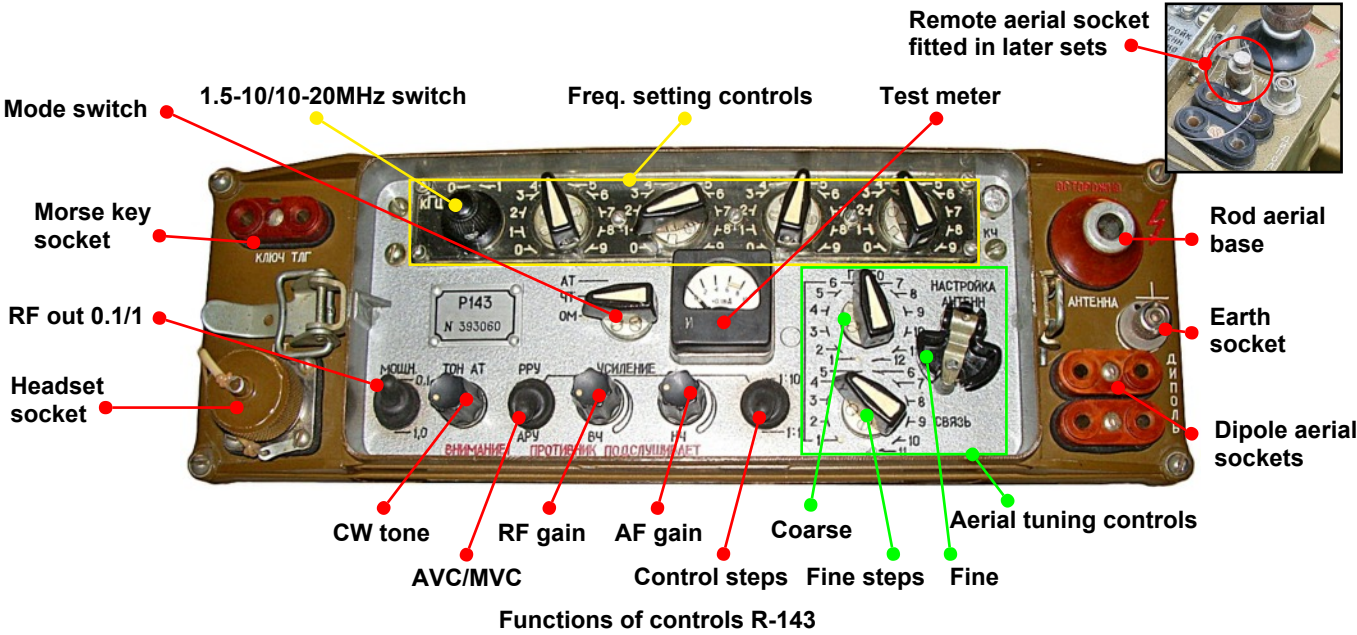
In SSB voice mode the radio could be operated at a distance of up to 500m by a field telephone, e.g. a TA-57. A R-014d 'Datchik (Датчик)' high speed data keyer could be connected to the socket located at the side. Noted are R-143 radios with non Cyrillic text which were most probably export versions.



Internal view of the R-143 showing its modular construction.



R-143 in its padded carrying bag. Note the remote aerial socket just below the aerial base.



R-143 in padded canvas bag with carrying straps.



Dipole aerial bag R-143



Battery compartment R-143

External rechargeable battery pack.



Powering the R-143 during longer and/or static operations a separate metal box with rechargeable batteries was used.

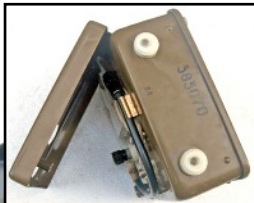


Essential accessories used with the R-143: Operator lamp, miniature Morse key, blue external power cable, Kulikov aerial, headset and microphone assembly, set of hand tools and leg strap for Morse key.

Morse key leg strap



Top view of dummy load



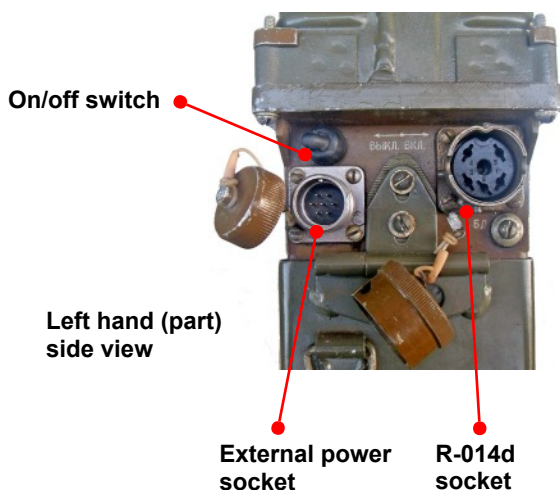
R-143 running spares and spare parts box. Note the vehicle aerial base with clamp (top right).



Dummy load with sockets for connecting a signal generator and frequency counter.



Right hand (part) side view showing sockets for connecting a field telephone.



On/off switch

Left hand (part) side view

External power socket

R-014d socket

References:

- Most of the high resolution photos were taken by Jozef Burda, OM0ASB, Slovakia. He also kindly provided information for the revised version of this chapter.
- Greenradio. <http://www.greenradio.de>
- cqham.ru forum.
- radioscanner.ru forum.