

Survey of Packet Equipment

Device	Is a...			Requirements				PTT	Best For	Difficulty Setting Up Packet/ WinLink	Complexities	1200 baud	9600 baud	Est. Cost
	Hardware TNC	Software TNC	Soundcard Interface	Computer Connector	Recommended XCVR Connector	Other Needs	Transceiver Special Configuration							
Signalink USB	No	No	Yes	USB	6-pin mini DIN	Software TNC	Enable Packet/D Mode	VOX	APRS, 1200 baud Packet	Easy*	Internal Jumpers USB ports can change Windows Updates	Yes	Difficult+	\$130
DINAH	No	No	Yes	USB	6-pin mini DIN	Software TNC	Enable Packet/D Mode	Automatic	APRS & Packet	Intermediate	WinLink Express will use KISS protocol Rpi + Linux configuration, setup Meant for AllStar	Yes	Yes	\$53
TARPN	Yes	No	No	USB	6-pin mini DIN	Raspberry Pi	Enable Packet/D Mode	Automatic	APRS, 1200 baud Packet	Intermediate	Linux/Raspberry Pi knowledge WinLink Express will use KISS protocol Bluetooth setup especially Menu system	Yes	No	?
Kenwood TH-D74A	Yes	No	Yes	Bluetooth -or- USB	n/a	Driver download	Lots in Menu system	Automatic	APRS	Difficult	Menu system	Yes	Yes	\$550
Kenwood TM-D710	Internal	No	No	Serial 9-pin, USB	Kenwood Serial Cable	None	Enable Internal TNC Set Packet/APRS Mode Set 1200/9600	Automatic	APRS	Intermediate	Menu system Small packet memory	Yes	Yes	\$550
Kantronics Packet Communicator 3+	Yes	No	No	DSUB-25 > Serial or USB	Serial 9-pin	12v Power	None (Menu if 6pin Mini DIN)	Automatic	APRS & Packet	Simple	WinLink Express "configures" the TNC. Must know how to backup/restore config.	Yes	Yes*	\$200 - \$420
RigBlaster Plug & Play	No	No	Yes	USB	6-pin mini DIN -or- Adapter cable	Opt: Rig Control Cable	Enable Packet/D Mode	VOX/CAT	APRS & Packet	?	Software Drivers/download Radio Compatibility	Yes	Difficult+	\$120
Byonics TinyTracker	Yes	No	No	Serial 9-pin	6-pin mini DIN	None	Enable Packet/D Mode	Automatic	APRS	Difficult	TelNet programming Difficult to set up Packet	Yes	No	\$70 - \$140
PITNC (12k/9k6)	Yes	No	No	Network	6-pin mini DIN	None	Enable Packet/D Mode	Automatic	APRS	Prebuilt: Intermediate	Linux/Raspberry Pi knowledge WinLink Express will use KISS protocol	Yes	Yes	\$100
Alinco DR-135/235/435	No	No	No	Serial 9-pin	Microphone Jack	Software TNC Soundcard Interface	Menu System	Automatic	APRS	Easy to Hard	Signalink? Easy but stuck at 1200 baud. Other interface/TNC? Faster but more complex.	Yes	Difficult+	\$170 - \$230
Alinco TNC Card	Add-on	No	No	Serial 9-pin	Microphone Jack	*	Menu System	Automatic	APRS & Packet	Intermediate	Add-on Board Installation No longer available?	Yes	No	\$200+
Masters Comm DRA-*	No	No	Yes	USB	6-pin mini DIN	Software TNC	Enable Packet/D Mode	Automatic	APRS & Packet	Kit: Intermediate Prebuilt: Easy	Advanced steps needed to configure PTT when connected to Windows machine	Yes	Yes	\$30*
Home-brew Interface	No	No	Yes	Serial 9-pin	6-pin mini DIN	Software TNC	Enable Packet/D Mode	Automatic	Both	Intermediate+	Design-and-build yourself Use CAT or Serial for PTT Transformers Limit to 1200 baud	Yes	Yes*	\$30 - ??
Syba SD-CM-UAUD	No	No	Yes	USB	6-pin mini DIN	Software TNC	Enable Packet/D Mode	Automatic	Both	Intermediate+	Advanced steps needed to configure PTT when connected to Windows machine	Yes	Yes	\$10
Fe-Pi	No	No	Yes	GPIO/Serial and Network*	6-pin mini DIN	Software TNC	Enable Packet/D Mode	Automatic	Both	Intermediate+	Linux/Raspberry Pi knowledge No WinLink Express*	Yes	Yes	\$14
SCS P4 Dragon	Yes	No	No	USB	PTC-II	Money	Enable Packet/D Mode	Automatic	Both	Simple	WinLink Express "configures" the TNC. Must know how to backup/restore config.	Yes	FACTOR 4	\$1,850
Yaesu FTM-400DR	Yes	No	No	n/a	10-pin mini DIN	Yaesu CT-164	Menu configurations	Automatic	APRS	Unknown	Instruction manual Menuing system	Yes	Yes	\$550
Icom IC-7100 (Data2)	No	No	No	n/a	6-pin mini DIN	Hardware TNC or Software TNC + Interface	Menu configurations	Automatic	APRS	Easy to Hard	Menu system	Yes	Yes*	\$860
Icom IC-7100 (USB)	Yes	No	Yes	USB	USB	Drivers from ICOM	Menu configurations	Automatic	APRS & Packet	Simple once ICOM driver is installed	Menu system Driver download/install WinLink Express configuration Freq Offset in FM Mode (bugfix)	Yes	Yes	\$860
Transceiver: WITH 6-pin Mini DIN	No	No	No	(depends on Interface)	6-pin mini DIN	Software TNC + interface -or- Hardware TNC	Enable Packet/D Mode	Automatic	APRS & Packet	Depends on Soundcard vs. Hardware TNC	Probably menu system (most rigs) Tuning input/output audio	Yes	Usually	\$300+
Generic Transceiver (NO 6-pin mini-DIN)	No	No	No	(depends on Interface)	Microphone Jack	Software TNC	Menu system?	Automatic	APRS	Easy with Signalink Intermediate: Others	Setting PTT Not shorting a hot line	Likely	Unlikely	\$300+