Foreword

A frequent complaint about **OpenTX** is its lack of documentation, and therefore its difficulty of use. This guide sets out to try to rectify that. It is also the case that **OpenTX** is an evolving program, like most software. This brings the problem that much of what has been written in the past is now partially or wholly out of date.

Several principles were used in the writing of this guide:

- It does not try to cover any previous versions of **OpenTX**. For those that need it, there is already a version of this documentation for **OpenTX 2.1.**
- It uses the **OpenTX Companion** as the primary starting point for programming a model and not the transmitter.
- The use of screen shots to simplify the text needed.
- As the range of FrSky transmitters has grown considerably, parts of the user guide are split into transmitter-specific sections.
- It has been laid out to follow the menu system in the **OpenTX Companion**.

The guide is broken down into sections. After the introduction, this section lists the contents of the remaining sections. Section 2 with the green border, **Getting Started** takes the user gently through the actual programming of a model to give a flavour of how the program works. This does not require the reader to have a transmitter, and could be useful for those wondering whether to invest in an FrSky transmitter or whether to move to **OpenTX**. The following **Sections 3 to 8** with the blue border explain briefly what everything does. Finally the last two sections with the red borders of **How To's** explains in more detail some of the aspects of the program or other facilities that can enhance the program.

I would like to thank all those who have already contributed to developing the knowledge base of **OpenTX** on the internet, and especially those who have unknowingly contributed some part of this documentation.

Finally this documentation was also freely produced and is offered in a similar spirit to readers. However, it is a copyright document as such, and must not be reproduced in whole or part for profit without approval. If elements are copied on a non-profit basis, I would appreciate an acknowledgement as the source, as I have tried to do with other contributors in this document.

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It is the sole responsibility of the user to ensure that the setting up of their transmitter functions as expected on the model.

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Introduction

Without doubt **OpenTX** is the most comprehensive model radio system available today. It has been adapted to cover the whole range of FrSky radios currently available, plus some Turnigy radios. However, that comprehensiveness comes at a price. It can appear very daunting to learn and use, and without doubt that is true to some extent. It is probably true that no modeller will ever use all the features available, but they are there if required.

OpenTX is open source software, that is to say all the development work has, and still is, being done by a team of willing programmers and enthusiasts from around the world at no cost to you the user, though donations to the project are warmly received. This helps keep the cost of equipment much lower than comparable systems with in-house programming. As most who use computers in one form or another realise, computers are constantly evolving, and so is the software surrounding them. This is also true of **OpenTX**, and users need to accept they are entering a world where regular updating becomes the norm, and new features will constantly appear, and some features will change. Changes to national and international radio regulations have also forced changes to the system. While frustrating at times, it does mean that one always has a fully up-to-date system to match or exceed the best of the rest. The **OpenTX** team have done much to make this updating process very simple, and if one follows a few basic precautions, there is never any chance of "bricking" (i.e. damaging) the transmitter, or losing all the effort you put into setting up your models.

The **OpenTX** transmitter system is unlike most other transmitter systems. It does not have the normal menu system you may well be used to and be comfortable with. It does not follow all the limiting conventions used by traditional systems, and this has been reflected in the FrSky transmitter designs themselves. For example, the switches are labelled "A", "B", "C", etc., rather than giving them specific designations, so any switch can be used for any purpose. Similarly you decide which channels to use for what purpose.

One needs to step back from ones pre-conceived ideas of how radio systems should be set up to fully appreciate the flexibility of OpenTX.

I hope as you read through this document you will begin to see the wonderful flexibility of this system, and instead of asking whether the program can do this or that, ask how to I get it to do.. ?

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