

RF GAIN Setting on SDR

Quick set-up procedure:

1. Tune off the signal and note S-meter reading on band noise alone (Example: S6).
2. Turn down RF Gain and/or insert attenuation until band noise just deflects the S-meter and is barely visible on the spectrum scope and waterfall.
3. Tune in the signal again. Band noise will not stimulate AGC action; this will allow the AGC to operate only on the signal.
4. This is the optimum operating point for the receiver. On 7 MHz and below, the band noise can be as much as 12-15 dB above the receiver's noise floor.

(excerpted from article by Adam Farson, AB4OJ)

<https://www.ab4oj.com/icom/ic7610/gainmgmt.html>