

# Radio Shack Pro-93/95 Blocked Frequencies Unlocking Guide

Written by Joe Stone

I have been a huge fan of Radio scanners for years now. But one of my favorite handheld radio scanners, and one of the more popular ones, was the Radio Shack Pro-95. I noticed when I was reading the manual that some frequencies were blocked. I couldn't believe that Radio Shack blocked over 148,000 frequencies! The Pro-95 is a great scanner but I wanted to unlock its full potential. This article will explain how to unlock certain frequencies for both the Pro-93 and the Pro-95 that were originally blocked by Radio Shack.

## General Background Information on Radio Scanners

First, I would like to explain a quick background on Radio Scanners. Radio scanners have been used for a long time. They are used to monitor different frequencies that are used by Police, Fire, Ambulance, Civilian and Military Aircraft, Coast Guard & Boats, FBI & DEA, Ham Radio Operators, various state, local & federal agencies, News Media Vans Helicopters, plumbers, landscapers, electric companies, private security companies & others using two-way radios; Also Officials & others at various Sporting events, including Race drivers & pit crews. Depending on the scanner, it can pick up signals from as short as a couple feet to thousands of miles away. Many of the scanner frequencies only cover short distances so you would not expect the signal to travel more than a few miles. Some signals actually bounce off the earth's atmosphere and can travel thousands of miles. On average, you can expect a typical radio scanner to receive signals from a 25 to 50 mile radius from your location. A radio scanner basically measures background noise off a particular frequency. If it finds a frequency with a lot of background noise (usually people talking), it will pause on that particular channel.

Some modifications on older scanners allow you to unlock cell phone frequencies. Others, such as the ones in this article, allow you to listen to frequencies that were originally blocked from the factory.

## Background Information on Cellular Frequencies with Radio Scanners

Radio scanners were never built to receive cellular frequencies. However, scanners built before 1994 were able to be "modified" to receive these analog frequencies. The older scanner models actually had the cellular frequencies programmed in them and certain modifications allowed a user to "un-hide" them. Scanners built after 1994 were required to be blocked and didn't even have these frequencies hidden. They were manufactured to not even include them. Even if scanners today could receive these frequencies, they would be of almost no use. With the development and use of digital cell phone signals such as GSM, TDMA, or CDMA, and even if the scanner was tuned to their frequency, you wouldn't be able to hear anything. Therefore, any website claiming they can unlock your scanner to receive cell phone

signals is a fraud.

---

Alright, let's get down to what's actually blocked on the Pro-93 and the Pro-95. The frequencies blocked on these models are:

17.000000 - 24.995000 MHz (1600 frequencies)  
54.005000 - 107.995000 MHz (10799 frequencies)  
174.005000 - 216.000000 MHz (8400 frequencies)  
225.005000 - 405.995000 MHz (36199 frequencies)  
512.006250 - 805.993750 MHz (47039 frequencies)  
960.006250 - 1239.993750 MHz (44799 frequencies)  
**Total: 148836 frequencies**

You can actually program frequencies as low as 5 kHz and as high as 4194.3 MHz, but the radio scanner will not receive anything lower than 17 MHz or higher than 1300 MHz. Unlocking these frequencies allows you to listen to certain Government, Business, two-way and cordless phones (varies), 2 & 6-meter Amateur Radio, Aircraft, or Amateur Radio that uses frequencies within the blocked range.

Listening in on certain FBI or CIA frequencies is not only illegal but impossible due to the fact that their radio signals are encrypted. However, certain government agencies broadcast unencrypted signals. Please check <http://www.radioreference.com/> for a list of radio frequencies in your area.

**WARNING:** Please use this guide at your own risk. Software modification of your radio scanner to monitor blocked frequencies may be **ILLEGAL** depending on the frequency you're monitoring. Please check with your local and federal laws before listening in on blocked frequencies.

**ALSO,** I assume no responsibility for any actions you take from this guide that result in damage to your unit. I am not responsible for any legal action that may be taken against you resulting from this guide. This guide was created for **EDUCATIONAL** purposes only!

---

There are two confirmed ways to unblock the frequencies from your Pro-93 or Pro-95 radio scanner. One is a lot easier than the other.

The first thing you will need in order for any of this to work is to purchase a PC-IF to USB cable that will connect your radio scanner to your computer. If you already have a cable similar to this one, great! Move on to the next step. Otherwise, it can be purchased from: <http://www.greamerica.com/scanner.html>. If you would prefer to go through Radio Shack, contact Radio Shack and order catalog #20-289.

**Make sure you install the drivers for your scanner!** The drivers for the GRE USB cable mentioned above are also available at <http://www.greamerica.com/scanner.html>.

Once you have your data cable and installed the drivers, you are ready to proceed. The wonderful people over at StarSoft ([www.starsoft.com](http://www.starsoft.com)) have created a great application that allows you to easily enter data into your radio scanner. You will need to download the following application in order for this hack to work. Depending on your radio scanner model, select from the following:

For a Pro-93 scanner, please download Win-93: <http://www.starsoft.com/freeware/win93/apps/Win93.zip>

For a Pro-95 scanner, please download Win-95:

<http://www.starsoft.com/freeware/win95/apps/Win95.zip>

Install the correct application above to your computer. As I mentioned earlier, there are two confirmed methods of unlocking the blocked frequencies. I'll start with the easier one first.

### **Easier Method**

After the installation is completed, go ahead and open Win-93/95. Start with a new blank template and enter the following into the first 6 channels in bank 0:

For Channel 000 enter 17.000000 MHz

For Channel 001 enter 54.005000 MHz

For Channel 002 enter 174.005000 MHz

For Channel 003 enter 225.005000 MHz

For Channel 004 enter 512.006250 MHz

For Channel 005 enter 960.006250 MHz

Make sure you set the mode (either AM or FM) for each of the above channels you entered. Next, go ahead and save the channels to your receiver using the Win-93/95 upload ability.

Now go ahead and tune to one of the channels on your scanner. If I wanted to go to channel 000, I would push MANUAL then type in 000 then press MANUAL again. Finally, press the FUNC button then the TUNE button. The scanner will then enter TUNE mode at which point it will scan through the entire list of blocked frequencies.

Once the scanner hits a normal frequency, it will stop. For example, if I was starting at 17.000000 MHz it would stop at 25.000000 MHz because that is a normal frequency for the scanner.

### **More Difficult Method**

The more difficult method involves you either typing in each frequency in manually (could be easier or harder depending on how many frequencies you want to scan) in Win-93/95 or creating an excel spreadsheet using AutoFill to scan a list of frequencies.

To create an excel spreadsheet of the frequencies using AutoFill, you can do the following:

First open up excel, Select the first cell in the range A1. Right click A1, click Formatting and under the Number tab select Number. Set the decimal places to 6. Click OK and type the starting value for the frequency in A1. For example, type in 177.000000. Make sure it is on a valid step for the range! For example, 177.000000 is perfect, but 177.001000 is not.

Next, go to A2 and do the same as you did for A1 (go to number tab select number and set decimal places to 5). Go ahead type in the next frequency (by step size) and again for example purposes I'll use 175.005000 since we used 177.000000 for A1. Select both cells by holding the left mouse button down and selecting A1 and A2.

Next, you will need to drag the fill handle (the small black square in the lower-right corner of the selection; when you point to the fill handle, the pointer changes to a black cross. to increase the order by dragging it

downward. The fill handle will appear when you move your mouse to the bottom right hand corner of cell A2 once A1 and A2 have been selected. Hold your left

mouse button over the small rectangle and drag downward to your appropriate stop point. Finally, go to cell B1 and type in either AM or FM for the receive mode. Drag B1 downward using the fill handle again to fill in all the white spaces for the appropriate frequencies on the A column.

Go ahead and copy your excel spreadsheet to Win93/95 and upload it to your scanner. You can only copy a single bank's worth of cells at one time. If you are using Win93, you can only do 30 frequencies at a time; with Win95, you can do 100 frequencies at a time.