

Kenwood TM-742 Lithium Battery Replacement

To get the battery, I called the Kenwood parts number, 800-637-0388. The call was answered by East Coast Transistor Parts, Inc. Not having any information, I asked for it by the model number of the radio and they knew what I needed. According to their invoice, it is part number W09-0573-05, "-C/LITHIUM MEMORY BATTERY". Price was \$7.24 plus \$6.50 shipping and handling. It arrived by US Mail in about 8 days. That sure beats the \$65 that AES charged me to change a TM-942 battery a few weeks earlier!

The battery has solder tabs welded on each side. The positive tab covers the CR-XXXX number of the old battery, so I can't tell you exactly what it is.

Incidentally, I found that using a premium #1 Phillips screwdriver made of Vanadium Steel, was the only way to avoid messing up some stubborn screw heads on screws holding the band modules to the mid section. I was able to remove the modules plus fan as a unit after unplugging the fan.

The battery is on a board in the section between the band modules and the front panel. There were two screws on the board with Band Module sockets and three screws on the plate with heat-sinks. Those two pieces come apart as a unit, with a plug and socket connecting to the board with the battery. You will need to remove the speaker and disconnect one flex-cable. You unlock the flex cable by lifting the top of its socket. If you have had this section apart before, you should have no trouble. Just remember to lock the flex cable when you reassemble the unit!

The main problem is that you need a small-tipped iron to avoid nearby components. I used Radio Shack's version of Solder Wick to remove most of the solder and then worked the battery loose one leg at a time. There are two legs on the Plus side and one on the Negative side that must be unsoldered. I used Radio Shack's Lead-Free Silver-Bearing solder (64-025) to avoid ruining nearby surface-mount components. (Lead amalgamates with silver, which removes the conductive plating from the ends of the components!)