

Modify Ram Mount Kenwood TH-D7 to fit the new TH-D72 Cradle

ARTICLE: Biking with the Kenwood TH-D7 HT's.

Ram Mount Kenwood TH-D7 Handheld Radio Cradle internet part number (RAM-HOL-KE1U).

For proper bicycle mounting also requires:

Product Number: RAM RAM-B-201U (Aluminum 3" Double Socket Mounting Arm)

Product Number: RAM-B-121B (Universal Clamping Yoke Mount (Ram Mounts)

Product Number: RAP-B-202 (RAM 2.5" Composite Round Base with the AMPs Hole Pattern & 1" Ball)

The RAM-HOL-KEIU was made for a Kenwood TH-D7g which I also own.

I was disappointed when I found my ram mount (RAM-HOL-KE1U) would not fit right with my new Kenwood TH-D72.

After playing around a bit I noticed if I could grind off some plastic with a handheld grinding tool called a Dremel tool (<http://www.dremel.com/>)

and a large cone shaped grinding stone. The Dremel quickly ground (melted) it's way through the plastic RAM mount radio cradle.

The parts of plastic that need to be ground away where areas like the top where the volume control and antenna stuck out of the TH-D72.

Also some plastic needed to be removed by the external mic ports.

And last but not least some plastic was needed to be ground off by the PTT key. Otherwise transmit would be on always when the TH-D72 was in the cradle.

An important note: You will experience real difficulty trying to put either the TH-D7 or the TH-D72 into the RAM mount cradle. But there is a trick: gently (but with some force) pull or bend the lower lip on the RAM mount. Then slide your transceiver up into the mount. It always works like a charm.

From what I can tell RAM Mount is planning on getting rid of the (RAM-HOL-KE1U). Ram Mount has no plans to make a new custom mount for ham radio HT's as far as I can tell. They seem to be selling out cheap usually less than 15.00(US) on the web.

3 Safely tips for the project:

- (1) Do not inhale plastic dust when grinding with a Dremel tool (Plastic dust sticks in lungs for years and may cause cancer)
- (2) If you use an external mic and drop it while biking the wheel spokes will chop up the mic and cable.
- (3) be careful biking and talking. (A friend of mine biking was crushed alive by a car when not paying attention.)

I do want to mention that RAM Mount makes an universal mount that seems to work for HT's. I have bought it for an old ICOM 2sra HT. It works but the universal RAM mount is not nearly as secure and the RAM_HOL-KEIU.

By the way if you noticed the part number seems to end in a ham radio operators call sign KE1U. I put KE1U into QRZ. I was going to ask him about the design. Unfortunately he has passed away at a young age (50 years) from sudden heart failure.

So large an answer I typed you. But such a letter is needed for Ham Radio Operators in our situation. I think TH-D7 will be one of the most popular HT's ever sold and biking when Ham Radio operating is a great fun and healthy time. This is especially if you go long distance biking. With APRS other hams can see your progress on the trip.

Please post this article around the web to benefit other biking Ham operators.

Regards & 73's

Rob Best KC9LGS (Feel free to visit my web <http://KC9LGS.net>)



Honestly with my drummel job
I may as well have chewed
the plastic with my teeth



None the less the darn thing works

Remember pull the bottom
lip with "reasonable force".
Do this to insert the D72 and to
release it from the cradle



View from Biker position



Additional mounting gear from RAM-Mount
will be necessary to complete a professional
quick release system

Just think international QSO's (VIA IRLP) as you
bike off HAM fat.

Also somehow this brings back memories and joy
of being 10 years old again with a "walkie talkie"
on my bike.