

Roberts WM-201 – Firmware Update

Roberts Radio is pleased to offer a firmware update for the WM-201 Internet Radio and Media Player. The update provides several feature enhancements to the WM-201 and also includes improvements in the underlying software. Specifically, it provides the following...

1) Wi-Fi and Ethernet

- a. The Wi-Fi connection now includes support for WPA2 encryption. WPA2 offers improved network security over WPA (and much greater protection than WEP). Note that if you wish to use WPA2, then you will need to change the wireless settings in your router and in all other wireless devices that connect to it.
- b. The Network Configuration menu now includes a Wi-Fi signal strength indicator (only available when the radio is using the Wi-Fi connection). Selecting this option will display a percentage figure which serves to indicate the quality of the connection to your wireless access point / router.
- c. When establishing a connection to the network the display of status information has been improved. The radio shows first that it is connecting to the LAN (for Ethernet) or to Wi-Fi, or to the named access point (displaying the ESSID). Once the local connection is established the radio then shows that it is connecting to the gateway. This should help in diagnosis of any networking problems.

2) Internet Radio

- a. The Internet Radio menu has been enhanced and now includes a Search option. If you know part of the name of a radio station then you may enter this and the radio will present a list of station names which match the search criteria. You may then choose to listen to a station from the list. This may subsequently be assigned to a preset or added to My Stations (see point 10).
- b. In addition to being able to store radio stations to any of the 12 available presets, the Reciva web site allows radio stations to be added to a customised list, known as "My Stations". You may now add stations to the "My Stations" menu directly from your radio. When listening to your chosen radio station, simply press the Reply button on the remote control. This will access a menu which will allow you to add the station. If you have not yet done so, you will first need to register your radio with Reciva at www.reciva.com (see page 24 in your WM-201 instruction book). The "My Stuff" menu will appear once your radio has updated its settings from the Reciva portal. "My Stations" is one of the options under "My Stuff" but is only visible when one or more radio stations have been added to your user account at Reciva.
- c. The My Stuff menu option has been enhanced. The changes will not be visible to users initially, but Reciva will be allowing several new Internet based radio and media services to be accessed using this menu. Initial configuration will be via the My Radios section of Reciva's web site.

3) Media Player

- a. There are minor improvements in the Media Player. While searching for UPnP servers a "Scanning" message is displayed.

- b. There is improved support for the Ogg Vorbis compressed audio format when used with some UPnP servers although playability of Ogg Vorbis files is not guaranteed at all bit rates.

4) Alarms

- a. The alarms may now be set or cancelled while the radio is in Standby. Previously it was necessary to switch on the radio in order to change the alarm settings. If the radio started playing when switched on this could result in waking a sleeping partner. The alarm can still be set while the radio is playing, but now the alarms may also be set silently. Simply press the Clock button on the remote control while the radio is in Standby mode to access the Alarm options.
- b. The number of alarms has been increased from four to eight. Some users find that the conventional weekday and weekend options do not suit their needs. With eight alarms it becomes possible to set a different alarm time for each day of the week if needed, and still have one alarm spare for use as a timer. All eight alarms retain the original options of operating once only, daily, weekdays, weekends, every day.
- c. The Auxiliary Input may now also be specified as a source for the alarms, in addition to the buzzer and radio alarm options previously offered. The volume of the radio will gradually increase when the alarm sounds.
- d. When an Internet Radio station is specified as an alarm source, the volume will now gradually increase (in the same way that the buzzer alarm already does) to avoid the user being woken suddenly if the radio content is louder than normal.
- e. The alarm snooze timer has been increased from 5 minutes to 10 minutes. This feature was not documented in the original instruction book (an error on our part). Based upon feedback from users, we feel that a 10 minute snooze is more useful to most people. To operate the snooze feature, simply press the Alarm / Clock button on the remote control while the alarm is sounding.
- f. The sleep timer now allows a maximum setting of three hours rather than the original two.

5) Display and Menus

- a. The display backlight may be temporarily brightened while in standby mode just by turning the front panel control. Specifically, the backlight level changes to the Active brightness setting for 15 seconds. Even with the standby mode brightness set to a very low level it is now possible to quickly see the time display if needed.
- b. The Radio Stations menu is now renamed to Internet Radio. The Configure menu is now renamed to Settings.
- c. Menus that previously presented two options in a left-right orientation (e.g. On-Off or Yes-No choices) are now oriented vertically, in the same way that other menus already were.
- d. The Version display menu now shows only information that is relevant when providing customer support. Specifically only the firmware service pack number, hardware serial number and Reciva product code are listed.

6) Regional settings

- a. The Daylight Savings Time (DST) option in the Clock menu has been enhanced. Previously the DST options were European, DST Off and DST On. The menu now offers None (= DST Off), Auto (EU), Auto (US) and Manual (= DST On). The default setting for the WM-201 is Auto (EU) which will automatically adjust the clock to summer and winter time settings for countries in Europe including the UK.
- b. The Language menu now includes English (GB) and English (US) options. The default setting for the WM-201 is English (GB).

In addition, the new firmware for the WM-201 includes a number of software stability and router compatibility enhancements.

The installation of this update is optional. If you are happy with your WM-201 as it stands, then you need do nothing. But if you wish to take advantage of the new features, please follow the instructions on page 56 of your instruction book (the section titled Upgrade firmware). The process should take you only a few minutes.

Do not attempt to update the firmware in your radio unless you have the radio connected to a reliable mains supply and the radio is connected to your router via a reliable Wi-Fi link or using the wired Ethernet connection.

Note that the firmware update process is in two parts. First, the radio downloads the new firmware from the Internet. During this time it displays a "Downloading" message. This should typically take between 30 seconds and 3 minutes or so depending on the speed of your Internet connection. After downloading and verifying the new firmware, the radio then reprograms itself. It is important during this second phase that the power to the radio is not removed until after the update has completed. While the reprogramming is taking place the radio displays "Writing data" and "Do not unplug!" alternately, together with a percentage completed indication. After reaching 100%, the radio will shut down and then restart automatically. It should then reconnect to the network before entering standby with the correct time displayed. You should find that the network settings, radio station presets and alarms have all been preserved.

You can check that the update has been successful by looking up the firmware version number. From the main menu, go to Settings, then Version. The new version number is v257-a-756-a-164.

An updated version of the instruction book for the WM-201 which incorporates these features will be made available in due course via the Roberts Radio web site at www.robertsradio.co.uk

Roberts Radio Limited
PO Box 130
Mexborough
South Yorkshire
S64 8YT