

Using the phone

The phone requires power which can either be from a 5 volt 2 amp adapter (pretty common, you probably have one in a junk box) or Power over Ethernet (PoE). The latter is a standard to supply power over an Ethernet cable that also carries data. You can buy routers with this built in or use an injector to add it to an existing Ethernet line. The phone does require the Ethernet connection to a router. There is a built in switch so you can connect a PC and phone to a single router port.

When you dial numbers you key in the number and then press dial like a cell phone, nothing is sent until you press the dial soft key. There are some user settings accessible under the menu key which looks like a document icon. This is also where you will find the phone's IP address, under network. Once you know that number type it into any browser on the same LAN as the phone and you will reach the web configuration pages where you can change a huge number of options if you need to do anything out of the ordinary, click on admin login and then advanced to see all the options. Besides being an easier place to edit speed dial numbers, there are a couple things that can make life easier here. Under the user tab you can disable text messages. Some Allstar nodes send annoying messages every few seconds listing connected nodes, this will prevent you from seeing them. In the phone tab you can disable blind transfer and att. transfer, these make no sense in HH, and you can cause problems in the network if you do a transfer accidentally (voice of experience).

Hamshack Hotline activation

The phone may come with a line with Hamshack Hotline active already. This is for getting started while you wait for your own HH number. As soon as you decide you will keep the phone you should apply for your own number. The process is simple, go to HamshackHotline.com and read their terms of service which they call the covenant. Go to the document tab and pick Wiki, the top five or six sections are the covenant. There is nothing unusual there, but they will ask you to certify you have read it as part of the provisioning process.

To start the process of getting a number go to hamshackhotline.com, and pick the HHOPS Helpdesk option, this is where you go to get things done by the admins. Click sign in and then create new account, follow the steps to create your helpdesk account. Once it is verified login and then click on "Open new ticket". There are a large number of topics to pick from, and most are specific to one of the four geographic servers, it is important to pick the right one. The option you want is about halfway through the list, "HHUS (USA) New Line Request". After you select it a bunch of fields will appear to fill in. The model number of the phone should be on the front of the phone and/or on a label in back, and the MAC ID number will be on a label on the back, it is a twelve digit hexadecimal (0-9,a-f) number, upper/lower case does not matter. Add in your call, name and location and submit.

It generally takes between an hour and a day (rarely longer) for someone to approve it, as long as you typed your email address correctly you will get an email confirming it when it is ready. You can also check the helpdesk to see if it has been acted on. The response will have a procedure that is specific to your phone. Usually it involves figuring out the IP address of the phone from the front panel, then building a URL which you will paste into a browser on a computer connected to the same network as the phone. This bit of magic tells the phone where to ask for provisioning, the HH servers get the request, match up the MAC number, and send everything the phone needs. The phone will reboot, and the first button should display your phone number, and should turn from orange to green shortly after the phone has booted. A green light means the phone has registered with the server and you can make and receive calls.

The process will remove all the speed dials the phone may have come with. You can reprogram them by pressing and holding the button you want to reprogram, in 3-4 seconds the edit screen will appear.

There is voicemail in HH, you can set it up by dialing *97, which is also how you will check it. The first time it will walk you through setup, including changing the password to whatever you want.

On the front of the phone is the menu button, it looks like a page of paper. Some of the parameters of the phone like backlight timing can be changed here, but the real power of the phone is available through the web interface. To get to this you need to use the menu key and then network option to find the IP number of the phone, then using any computer browser type in that number. In the upper right corner pick administration, then advanced to see all the options. One to set up right away is to load the FKARC directory. In the phone tab scroll down until you see XML Directory Service Name, this is what you will see on the phone, type in something like "FKARC Directory", in the next line set the XML Directory Service URL to "<http://www1.findu.com/fkarc.xml>". Then at the bottom of the page type submit to send the change to the phone. The phone may need to reboot, and then you can press the dir softkey, scroll down to FKARC, and press select to see the items in the directory.

Attached are some of the things you can do on Hamshack Hotline.