How to Get the Best Performance from Your Futaba® 2.4GHz FASST™ Aircraft Receivers

Every R/C pilot learns by experience what methods work well for installing and maintaining radio equipment. At the same time, we also want our aircraft to have the advantage of up-to-the-minute technology...which means that every now and then, we must master some new techniques.

Spread spectrum radio technology offers the perfect example. When Futaba introduced 2.4GHz FASST radio equipment, R/C hobbyists quickly jumped to the front of electronic technology’s cutting edge. Not surprisingly, those new, state-of-the-art 2.4GHz receivers have significant differences compared to old 72MHz units. So it’s time to change a few old habits.

Below are some recommendations for updating the way you install and maintain radio gear. Make them a part of your routine, and you’ll enjoy the best performance from your 2.4GHz FASST radio gear.

1. Don’t wrap your FASST receiver in foam.

   Protecting your receiver from vibration by wrapping it in foam used to be a “must”. Not so with 2.4GHz FASST receivers. Unlike 72MHz equipment, they’re not as vulnerable to vibration. Using less foam lets them operate cooler — which is a plus for all electronics.  
   **Tip:** To keep the receiver cooler use small foam blocks (like standoffs) so that there is an air channel around the receiver.

2. Shade your model from sunlight when not flying.

   Clear canopies expose the radio compartment to direct sunlight which results in additional heat in the model interior. This causes no problems during flight, but makes shading your model on the ground very important. Cover the canopy with a white towel; or better yet, park your airplanes in the shade. This will help keep the electronic components cool.  
   **Tip:** It is important to note that lighter covering colors will absorb less heat whereas darker colors will absorb more heat.

3. Mount your FASST receiver away from heat sources.

   We had to avoid mounting 72MHz receivers near anything that might produce RF noise. That’s not as much of a concern with 2.4GHz FASST receivers — you should instead make sure that you’re mounting the unit in the coolest part of the radio compartment.  
   Stay away from the muffler exhaust, battery packs, regulators or any other heat source. We also recommend that you use the receiver’s long, narrow side as its base
(rather than mounting it with the bottom flat against the radio compartment floor). Secure the receiver using a Velcro® strap or gel tape.

We hope that these tips help you with your 2.4GHz FASST receiver installation and maintenance. If you have any questions, please let us know. Just contact us at the Futaba Service Center, by e-mail at: service@futaba-rc.com.
**Battery F/S function**

The TM-8 transmitter module and R608FS receiver also provides you with a second safety system, the Battery F/S (failsafe). When the airborne voltage drops below 3.8V, the battery failsafe function moves the throttle to a pre-determined position. If this happens, you should land immediately! If you need to increase the throttle for your landing approach, you may temporarily reset the failsafe function by moving the throttle stick to the predetermined position, after which you’ll have about 30 seconds of throttle control before the battery function reactivate.

*Please note: It is suggested that you utilize a 4-cell NiCd or NiMH receiver battery pack as it allows the effective use of the battery F/S function. Additionally, we do not suggest using dry cell batteries for the receiver pack as they may cause difficulties.

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**Range Check the Radio**

It is extremely important to range check your models prior to each flying session. This enables you to ensure that everything is functioning as it should and to obtain maximum enjoyment from your flying time. The TM-8 transmitter module incorporates a system that reduces its power output and allows you to perform such a range check.

1. **Turn on the transmitter.**

2. **After the radio frequency link has been established (as indicated by either a solid green LED or a blinking green LED), press and hold the “F/S, Range” switch located on the rear of the TM-8 transmitter module. As indicated by the LED, the transmitter’s frequency power has been reduced to allow for the range check.

   *Note: Do not press and hold the “F/S, Range” switch prior to turning on the transmitter. This will alter the status of the F/S settings noted previously. In order to avoid this situation, please wait for a short time after turning on the transmitter to activate the low power setting so for range checking.

3. **Walk away from the model while simultaneously operating the controls. Have an assistant stand by the model to confirm that all controls are completely and correctly operational. You should be able to walk approximately 30-50 paces from the model without losing control.**

4. **If everything operates correctly, return to the model. Set the transmitter in a safe, yet accessible, location so it will be within reach after starting the engine or motor. Be certain the throttle stick is in the low throttle position, then start the engine or motor. Perform another range check with your assistant holding the aircraft with the engine running at various speeds. If the servos jitter or move inadvertently, there may be a problem. We would strongly suggest you do not fly until the source of the difficulty has been determined. Look for loose servo connections or binding pushrods. Also, be certain that the battery has been fully charged.**

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**WARNING**

Please make sure that you do not push and hold the F/S, Range switch when flying as this reduces the power output of the transmitter and reduces the overall range of your transmitter.

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**Other precautions**

When utilizing the trainer function of the transmitter as an instructor, please do not switch to the student’s control unit until the RF is active after turning the transmitter on. Failure to adhere to this procedure may result in a malfunction.

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**FCC Information**

To assure continued FCC compliance:

(1) Any changes or modifications not expressly approved by the grantee of this device could void the user’s authority to operate the equipment.

(2) FCC Label Compliance Statement:

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

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**Futaba 2.4GHz System**

Your 2.4GHz system includes the following components:

- **Futaba 2.4GHz Radio Set:**
  - TM-8 RF Module
  - R608FS Receiver
  - Mini screwdriver

- **Radio System:**
  - Spread Spectrum radio communication system
  - Exclusive ID code to avoid interference from other 2.4GHz systems
  - Fail Safe (F/S) function for throttle channel)
  - Battery F/S
  - Dual antenna diversity (R608FS)

**Usage Precautions:**

1. Prior to utilizing any radio control system, it is strongly recommended that you read and abide by the Safety Code created by the Academy of Model Aeronautics as well as any site specific rules and regulations that might exist. Doing so will greatly increase your enjoyment of the hobby.

2. In order to maintain complete control of your aircraft it is important that it remains visible at all times. Flying behind large objects such as buildings, grain bins, etc. is not suggested. Using so may reduce in the result of the quality of the radio frequency link to the model.

3. Please do not grasp the transmitter module’s antenna during flight. Doing so may degrade the quality of the radio frequency transmission.

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**Remote Control System**

**Contents and Technical Specifications**

**Specifications:**

- **TM-8 RF Module**
  - Communication system: one-way communication
  - Antenna: 1/2 wavelength dipole
  - Current consumption: 150mA maximum
  - Setting switch for I-rat (F/S) setting and range check
  - LiCd (light emitting diodes) indicate the operational status
  - Dual antenna diversity
  - Power requirement: 4.8V or 6.0V battery or regulated output from ESC, etc.

- **F/S and Battery F/S function for throttle channel (channel three)**
  - Size: 0.98 x 1.86 x 0.56 in. (24.9 x 47.3 x 14.3 mm)
  - Weight: 0.48 oz. (13.5g)

- **(i)** Be sure that when using ESC’s regulated output the capacity of the ESC must meet your usage condition.

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**Repair Service (in U.S.A.)**

If any difficulties are encountered while setting up or operating your TM-8 transmitter module and R608FS receiver, please consult this instruction manual first. For further assistance you may also refer to your hobby dealer, or contact the Futaba Service Center at the web site, fax or telephone number below:

- Futaba Service Center
  - www.futaba-rc.com
  - Fax: (217) 398-7721, Tel: (217) 398-8970 (option 2)

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**Futaba Corporation**

Phone (403) 296-5118 Fax: (403) 296-5124
Makuhari Techno Garden Bldg., B6F-1-3 Nakano, Mihama-ku, Chiba 261-8555, Japan
Installing the TM-8 Module and R608FS Receiver

Attachment of the Module

⚠️ CAUTION

1. Ensure that the transmitter is set to the PPM (pulse position modulation) mode. Please consult the respective owner's manual for your particular transmitter for the proper mode to do so.

2. While it is unlikely that the existing transmitter antenna will interfere with the radio frequency transmission of the TM-8, we suggest removing it from the transmitter if possible as a precaution.

Next, with the transmitter's power off, remove the existing transmitter module and install the TM-8 module with care so that the connector pins of the transmitter won't be damaged.

Antenna of TM-8

As with all radio frequency transmissions, the strongest area of signal transmission is from the sides of the TM-8 transmitter module's antenna. As such, the antenna should not be pointed directly at the model. If your flying style creates this situation, easily move the antenna to correct this situation.

Please do not grasp the transmitter's antenna during flight. Doing so may degrade the quality of the RF transmission to the model.

Easy Link

Each TM-8 transmitter module has an individually assigned unique ID code. In order to start operating, the receiver must be linked to the respective TM-8's ID code. Once the linking is done, the ID code is stored in the receiver and the re-linking is not necessary unless the receiver is to be used with a different TM-8 module.

Additionally, it is important to note that this TM-8 and R608FS receiver set has already been linked by the factory. Should you wish to re-link them, or if you have purchased a separate receiver and would like to link it to this TM-8, please adhere to the following procedure.

⚠️ WARNING

After the linking is done, please cycle receiver power and check if the receiver is linked is really under the control by the transmitter to be linked.

Do not perform the linking procedure with motor's main wire is connected or the engine is operating as it may result in serious injury.

Ensure that the ch-mode select is set to the position of the receiver's operation protocol. Please refer the compatibility table in P4 for ch-mode select versus the receiver to be paired.

Receiver Installation

You will note that the R608FS differs in appearance from the standard Futaba receiver. The R608FS incorporates two separate antennas into its design which enables it to receive the radio frequency transmission at two different locations. Futaba's dual antenna diversity, or DAD, then seamlessly selects the best signal reception between these antennas to ensure that there is no loss of signal.

To obtain the best results from the R608FS receiver, please refer to the following instructions and precautions:

1. Install the receiver in the aircraft using the same methodology as you would handle a standard receiver. That is, make sure that you wrap the receiver in foam rubber or other such material to make it less susceptible to vibration, etc.

2. Ensure that the two receiver antennas are kept as straight as possible. This will allow you to obtain the maximum effective range from your model.

3. If possible, please make sure that the two antennas are placed at 90 degrees to each other. Please note: This is not a critical figure, however, the most important thing is to keep the antennas away from each other as much as possible.

4. If your model includes metal conductive items which may impact the receiver's ability to clearly receive the radio frequency signal, we suggest mounting the receiver so that the receiver antennas exit both sides of the model. This will allow the best radio frequency signal condition at any flying attitude.

5. Ensure that the antennas are at least 1/2" away from any conductive materials such as metal and carbon. Please note: this is not applicable to the coaxial portion of the antenna. It is important, however, to not bend the coax, or antenna in a tight radius.

6. If the fuselage is made of conductive materials such as metal and carbon, the antennas part MUST be positioned so that they exit the fuselage. Additionally, do not attach the antenna itself to this fuselage.

* For example, there are many types of gliders which use carbon fuselage. When installing the receiver into such models, it is imperative that the antenna connections are adhered to strictly.

⚠️ WARNING

Be very careful when handling the receiver antennas. When bending and flexing of the antennas or excessive force could weaken or compromise the internal antenna connections.

Keep the antennas away from the motor, ESC, and other noise sources as much as possible.

De-activating the F/S (Failsafe)

As noted above, it is also possible to de-activate the failsafe setting of the receiver.

Depress the F/S button on the rear of the transmitter while turning the transmitter's power on. The LEDs should begin to glow. Continue holding the button until the green LED begins to glow solidly and the red LED blinks.

Re-Arming the F/S (Failsafe)

To activate the failsafe once again, depress the F/S button on the rear of the transmitter while turning the transmitter's power on. The LEDs should begin to glow. Continue holding the button until the green and red LED's begin to blink.

* Please note: re-arming the F/S does not alter the pre-determined throttle servo position. To modify this setting, please follow the F/S position setting procedure.

F/S position setting procedure

As mentioned at "Easy Link", the R608FS starts linking process by press the Easy Link button more than two seconds. Meanwhile, when linking is done, the R608FS stores 3ch(Throttle) position as the F/S position automatically. If you need to change the F/S position but not need to re-link, set the 3ch(throttle) stick as desired position and press and hold the Easy Link button down for more than two seconds. By this way, the receiver will re-link the F/S data for current 3ch position. Prior to doing so, ensure that the F/S is active. If not, please follow the Re-Arming the F/S procedure as noted previously.

1. With the transmitter's throttle stick in the desired F/S position, and the receiver located within one (1) meter of the transmitter, turn on the transmitter. The green LED, located on the rear of the TM-8 transmitter module, should begin to blink. If not, power down the transmitter and turn it on once again.

2. With the transmitter on, and the green LED blinking, turn on the receiver. Please note: this is not applicable to the coaxial portion of the antenna. It may result in serious injury.

3. Turn off the transmitter. The throttle servo should move to the pre-determined F/S position.

F/S (Fail Safe) mode setting

The F/S is suggested for use as it offers a safety factor when controlling your models. It is also possible to cancel the F/S operation if you do not wish to use it.

Please refer to the table below for the LED status of the receiver's condition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antenna</th>
<th>Green</th>
<th>Red</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F/S OFF</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>No function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F/S ON</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>To set the F/S position to re-link</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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