

The Sharp Dictionary PW Series Manual

Unofficial

Provided by BornPlayDie.com

<http://www.bornplaydie.com/japan>

This document is for private use and not for distribution. This is not an official manual. This document was written using a Sharp PW-9700. Many of the Sharp models are similar in basic features. However the dictionaries and menu items do differ. I am not affiliated with Sharp.

This document is only a supplement to the information on-line at bornplaydie.com. If you are not familiar with how Japanese electronic dictionaries work, what they can and cannot do then visit the bornplaydie.com Japanese/English dictionary below

Visit the bornplaydie.com Japanese/English electronic dictionary page at

<http://www.bornplaydie.com/japan/dictionary/dictionary.htm>

Introduction

I wrote this manual for people who are thinking about buying a Sharp and for people who did buy a Sharp and need just a little jump start. Once you get use to your Sharp you will be a pro yourself in no time. This manual is not meant to be stand-alone. There are tutorials that cover some of the subjects in more detail and with examples.

If you have corrections or comments about this manual, feel free to send me email at webmaster@bornplaydie.com. Also visit My Guide to Kofu, Japan. This is information for visitors to Kofu city, Yamanashi prefecture, and Japan. Including my experiences of traveling, hiking, and having fun in Japan including tons of photos. Plus learn a bit about Japan, Japanese food, Japanese culture, and more! Also at bornplaydie.com is the on-line guide to Japanese/English electronic dictionaries. Probably the most complete guide on the web today. Thanks for reading my shameless plug! Now let's get to it...

The keyboard



Keys listed left to right

Top row:

On/Off
Switch tab
Hayami
Scroll
Zoom
Smaller font
Bigger font

Second row:

Multi-lookup
Japanese
English
English/Japanese
Japanese/English
English Thesaurus
Example lookup
Letter
Menu

Number row:

Backspace
Clear

Bottom row:

Jump
Example/Explanation
Bookmark
Word memo
List

The green key at the lower-left is the shift key. Keys that can be used with the shift key are also marked on green. There is no upper/lower case.

Shift-Z (~): Multi-wildcard
Shift-X (?): Single wildcard
Shift-Up: Previous entry
Shift-Down: Next entry
Shift-Enter: Save in word memo
Shift-Backspace: Delete from word memo

The two oval blue buttons are Return (go back) and Enter. To the right of these are the 4 arrow keys and the page up/down scroll keys.

Turning it on!

Press the On Button, any of the blue speed buttons, or the Menu button. If you press the On button and have the startup phrase feature turned on, a phrase will be displayed for a few seconds. You can skip the phrase by pressing any button.

The Menu

You can access all features of the dictionary using the menu. The most common features have their own button. These are the blue buttons.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 – Jap/Jap | 00 – Example lookup |
| 2 – English | 01 – Japanese Cards/Letters |
| 3 – English/Japanese | 02 – Tools |
| 4 – Japanese/English | 03 – Startup mode |
| 5 – English Thesaurus | 04 – Settings |
| 6 – Kanji | |
| 7 – Special Dictionaries | |
| 8 – Business Letter | |
| 9 – Make it! English | |

This manual does not cover many of the features that are intended for Japanese consumers. This includes the business letter, Japanese Cards/Letters, the special dictionaries to name a few.

Looking up a word

Select the appropriate dictionary. Enter the word. The entries are listed real-time. Use the Up/Down arrows to select the entry and press Enter. Alternately you can use the number keys to enter the number to the left of each entry.

You can search all dictionaries at once by using the Multi-lookup button. The top line is for searching for a Japanese word and the second line is for searching for an English word.

There are a few ways to search for words that you are unsure the spelling ⁽¹⁾. You can do this for English and Japanese. The simplest way is to use the “?” and “~” wildcards. The “?” wildcard replaces a single unknown English letter or Japanese kana character. For example, “d?g” matches “dog”, “dig”, etc. The “~” wildcard replaces any number of unknown characters. “d~g” matches all entries starting with “d” and ending with “g”, like “dog”, “dairy farming”, etc.

The “~” can be use at the beginning and the middle of the search text but not as the last character of the search text. Also only one “~” wildcard can be used in a single search. The “?” cannot be used as the first character of the search text but can be use in the middle and as the last character. Go figure. The “?” wildcard character can be used as many times as you want.

Another method to search is the “aimai” search located in multi-lookup. Enter the multi-lookup and press the select option 1. These patterns are basically the same as using the wildcards as described above. I find using the wildcards simpler.

Spell Check

Spell check only works on English words. There are a few different ways to use spell checking. If the entered word cannot be found in the dictionary, option 2 will allow you to spell check the entered text for suggestions. When you select one of the resulting suggestions you will see the entry for that word in the original dictionary you were searching in. This works for the English, English/Japanese, and Thesaurus. If you just want to spell check a word you can select any of the three English dictionaries previously mentioned and select option 2 and enter a word.

Configuring the settings

Select Menu-04. To change and entry use the up/down arrows the select the option and press Enter to toggle/execute the option. You can also select the number using the number keys.

Key touch sound: On/Off

Kana Entry method: Kana/Romaji

Auto-off: 3, 5, 10, 20 minutes

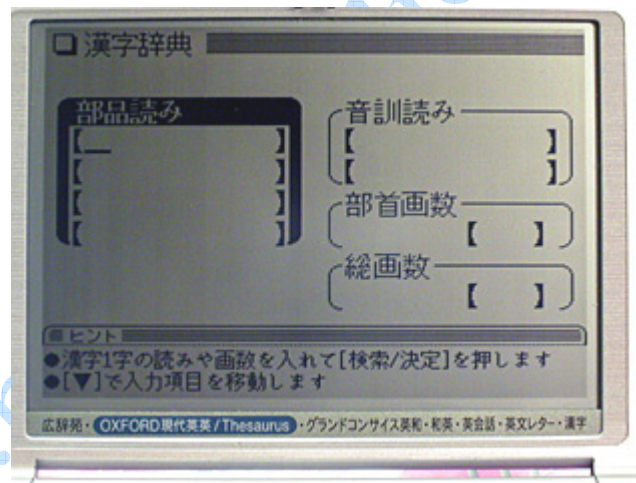
Delete all bookmarks

Delete entire word memo

The romaji entry is probably the most natural for foreigners. The Kana entry uses the kana keys (Key Q through P). You need to press the keys multiple times to get the kana character you want. For example when you press the Q key in kana mode repeatedly you get a-i-u-e-o... When you use romaji mode the romaji is converted to kana one character at a time.

Using the Kanji dictionary

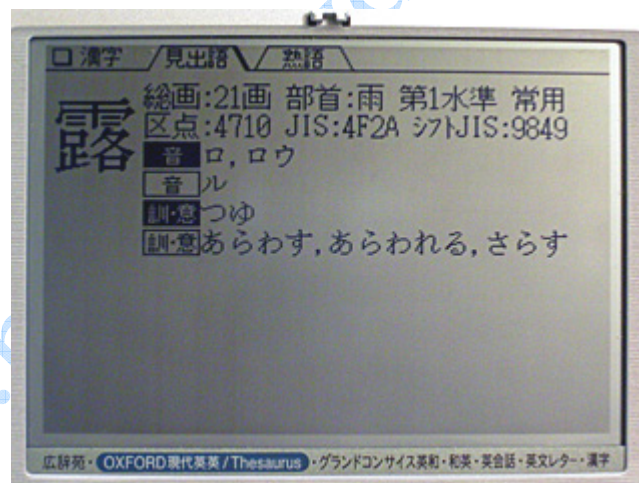
There is no kanji button. This is too bad but you have to use Menu-6.



There are 4 groups to enter the search criteria above. The first group on the left is for components. The next three groups are on the right. The group at top is for ON and KUN reading and multiple entries are allowed. Using multiple readings can really help narrow down the kanji you are searching for since there are many readings that are common to many kanji. For example, searching for "sen" results in 163 characters on 17 screens, where as a search for "sen" and "zen" results in only 5 screens. The next group in the middle is for radical and the last group at the bottom is for stroke count searches. All students are familiar with the tedious process of counting strokes, since this method can be used with little prior knowledge of kanji. However, by itself this is probably the least effective method. Entering a stroke count of "11" results in 577 matching kanji as seen in Figure 1. Searching through all 58 screens of kanji just to discover that the kanji you are searching for was actually 12 strokes, not 11, is really annoying.

To include a radical in you search, enter the stroke count of the radical and then select the radical from the radical list as seen in Figure 2. Each screen displays 10 radicals, and like the kanji display there can be multiple screens. The screen number and total number of screens are displayed in the upper right of the radical list.

The key to searching the Kanjigen dictionary is to use all the search criteria you know to narrow down the matching kanji. I usually start with any known ON or KUN readings and know components. For simple kanji, I will then enter a stroke count if needed. For complicated kanji I may guess at a radical. If I still cannot find my kanji I will usually vary my stroke count by +/- 1 to allow for errors in counting. With a little practice, you will be a pro in no time.



This is the kanji entry display with some of the key elements indicated. Starting from left to right is the stroke count (21), and the kanji's radical ("ame"). Below this is a list of ON readings written in katakana ("ro", "rou"). Below this is a list of KUN reading written in hiragana ("ru"). It is not seen in this figure, but the kanji portion and the hiragana portion of the *okurigana* is separated by a dot in the KUN readings.

Jumping

The ability to jump is probably the most important feature for foreigners! Without this feature the dictionary is virtually useless. Most dictionaries on the market allow jumping but foreigners need the ability to jump on Japanese words and this is only supported by a few of the manufacturers. Canon and Sharp are two.

To jump on a Japanese word press the Super Jump key. The cursor will change to a block that highlights an entire English word or a kanji or kana character. Move the cursor with the Up/Down and Left/Right arrow keys. Position the cursor on the first kanji or kana character of the word you want to jump to. Now press Enter and use the Right arrow to highlight the entire word. When done simply press the Enter key to jump to the word.

When you jump to a word all matches are displayed in a list. These will likely be from different dictionaries. Each entry title is preceded by the dictionary it is in. Just use the Up/Down arrow keys to select the entry from the dictionary you want to see and press Enter. Press Return to return to the list and select a different entry.

Word memo

Each dictionary has its own word memo. When you save an entry in word memo it is automatically saved in the appropriate word memo.

You will want to save words to study later. From an entry press Shift-Enter to save the entry in word memo. To review the entries saved in word memo first enter the appropriate dictionary. For example if you want to see the word memo for the Japanese/English dictionary, first enter that dictionary. Now press the word memo button. All entries saved in the word memo for the current dictionary are listed. You can scroll one entry at a time with the up/down arrow keys or one page at a time with the scroll up/down keys.

To delete an entry from the word memo, first go to the word memo, find the entry and press Enter. From inside the entry press Shift-Backspace. You will be prompted to confirm deletion. Press either "Y" or "N" to confirm or cancel.

Using the examples

There are sayings, proverbs, and examples. For the English dictionaries, enter the dictionary and select option 1. You can enter up to 3 words here and the phrase containing the words will be listed for that dictionary only. For example, enter “dog” and “cat” and the first phrase listed is “It rains cats and dogs”. The Japanese dictionaries do not have this feature.

Another way to list examples is the Examples button. Press the examples button. The top line searches for a single Japanese word and the bottom 3 lines allows up to 3 English words as before. Entering “inu” in the top line lists a number of examples in Japanese using “inu” with English translations.

Entering “dog” and “cat” as before lists a number of different examples from all the English dictionaries. Press the Switch Tab button to change between the different English dictionaries.

From within an entry press the Example button to highlight and move the Example marker from one example to another. All entries do not have examples. If there are examples the example markers will be listed on the right. Press Enter to display the example. You can use Shift-Page Scroll Up/Down to jump from example to example.

Using the Make it! Feature

This is a really cool feature and I like using it. It is not intended for foreigners but I think it is really helpful. Press Menu-9 to enter Make it! Now choose book 1 or book 2 and Enter. A long list of topics is displayed (in Japanese). Select one of the topics. Now another list is displayed. This is a mini-Table of Contents for this topic. The good this is that the topic is displayed in English on the screen. Now select Sketch. There is a mini-sketch written in English and Japanese. You can practice reading the English and translating or reading the Japanese. There are tons of these sketches so don't let them go to waste!

Using the tools

Select Menu-03
Calculator
Currency converter
Measurement conversion
Calendar
Birthday converter.

For the Currency converter and the Measurement conversion features use the Up/Down and Left/Right arrow keys. To select a conversion use the Up/Down arrow keys. Then press the left or right arrow keys to select the unit to enter and enter a value followed by Enter. To convert, just press the Left and Right arrow keys.

(1) This is about the only feature where I prefer my Canon over my Sharp. I am not sure why Sharp make this so complicated and limited. Using Canon's two wildcards "?" and "*" you can search for just about any combination of letters and wildcards. Sharp does this with its "?" and "~" wildcards, but these are more limited. In addition there is the "aimai" search described above which in my opinion is too complicated.

www.bornplaydie.com/japan