Taken from the AGWPE website as some addtional technical information regarding Kenwoods internal Tasco modems:

http://www.elcom.gr/sv2agw/hardware.htm

Kenwood D-700 and D-7

(APRS compatible units)

I am not going to describe the features of the two radios. They are great and filled a hole in the market. I will tell you what Kenwood should do to make these two radios superb. As they are now are not of use, at least for me. They have annoying (fatal) problems!!!

Kenwood D-7 Handheld.

Earlier versions had a problem in KISS mode. Newer version support better the KISS mode, but still the luck of memory can cause problems. While in APRS mode if a station sends a Beacon packet larger than 76 characters the TNC locks and needs reset. Sometimes things are even worse, the whole transceiver needs RESET!! Of course cannot support frames larger than 256 characters. It is very sensitive to computer interference. So put some ferrites to the serial port cable...

Kenwood D-700 Mobile.

Cannot handle frames larger than 255 characters in KISS mode. It has no hardware flow control ,while in TNC mode, so cannot be used for packet with terminal programs, since it is impossible to send Binary files, or long ASCII files. If in APRS mode and a station sends a Beacon frame larger than 256 characters, the TNC resets itself. If this frame contains DX cluster info the transceiver gives up and switches off. They use a wrong connector type for the build in tnc serial port. It is male but is wired as female!!!! The good think is that behaves superb with an external TNC on 9600b. You must have in mind that needs a rather high output tnc. It can be used with a txdelay up to 11. Really fast VCO!! It has a build in mailbox (American habit!!) with 128kb memory. Imagine they waste so much memory for something that no one will ever use.

Conclusion

I think that if they correct the problem with frames larger than 76 characters the handheld will be ok. On the other hand the mobile needs a lot of fixes, not to mention that cannot be used while mobile, since it is very difficult to handle it while driving. A lot of different buttons and a confusing screen with too many indicators. Even the voice operation is difficult, the shift for repeaters is in the second function screen and even worse the first push results in a positive offset. I really cannot understand why they didn't ask an experienced packet user for an advise!!

I wonder, they sell units that not compile to what they advertise. In APRS and DX cluster mode the units behaves bad (need reset!!!), and the build tnc cannot be used as a real TNC due to serial port handshaking problems. Will they recall the units to fix them??