HSMM WRT54xx Shopping Guide

Information courtesy Wikipedia.org 11/2012, Versions in shaded area ***are not usable.***
Consider printing this and keeping a copy handy to evaluate used equipment

Simplified shopping list:

Model	Version	Comments
WRT54GS	1.0 – 3.0	Most memory (32/8) MB
WRT54GS WRT54G WRT54GL	4.0 2.0 – 4.0 1.0 – 1.1	16/4 MB
WRT54G	1.0	16/4 MB 5V DC power (Won't tolerate over-voltage)

Higher numbered versions of each model are ***not compatible*** with HSMM firmware.

Detailed model information:

WRT54G

Version	CPU	RAM	Flash memory	S/N Prefix	Power	Notes
1.0	Broadcom BCM4702 @ 125 MHz	16 MB	4 MB	CDF0 CDF1	5 V 2 A positive tip	20 front panel LEDs (including link/activity, collision detection and speed rating indicators for each Ethernet port). Wireless capability was provided by a Mini PCI card attached to the router motherboard
1.1	Broadcom BCM4710 @ 125 MHz	16 MB	4 MB	CDF2 CDF3	12 V 1 A	Front panel LEDs reduced to eight (one link/activity LED per port, plus one each for power, wireless, DMZ and WAN/Internet connectivity). Wireless chipset is integrated onto motherboard. Note: some of the routers have BCM4702 CPU (http://www.dslreports.com/forum/remark,8985696)
2.0	Broadcom	16 MB	4 MB	CDF5	12 V	Same as 1.1 with a CPU upgrade and

Version	CPU	RAM	Flash memory	S/N Prefix	Power	Notes
	BCM4712 @ 200 MHz				1 A	greater wireless transmitter integration (fewer transmitter parts). Some of these have 32 MB of RAM but are locked to 16 MB in the firmware (can be unlocked to use all RAM — see [1] (general info) and [2] (for an XB card) and [3] (for an XH card)).
2.1	Broadcom BCM4712 @ 216 MHz	16 MB	4 MB	CDF6	12 V 1 A	Same physical appearance as 1.1 and 2.0 models. Some of these models have 32 MB of RAM installed but have been locked to 16 MB by the manufacturer. Some models have two 16 MB MIRA P2V28S40BTP memory chips.
2.2	Broadcom BCM4712 @ 216 MHz	16 MB	4 MB	CDF7	12 V 1 A	Same physical appearance as 1.1 and 2.0 models. Switching chipsets from ADMtek 6996L to Broadcom BCM5325EKQM. Some of these models have 32 MB of RAM installed but have been locked to 16 MB by the manufacturer. Some models have 16 MB Hynix HY5DU281622ET-J memory chips.
3.0	Broadcom BCM4712 @ 216 MHz	16 MB	4 MB	CDF8	12 V 1 A	Identical to 1.1 and later models, except for the CPU speed and an undocumented switch behind left front panel intended for use with a feature called "SecureEasySetup".
3.1	Broadcom BCM4712 @ 216 MHz	16 MB	4 MB	CDF9	12 V 1 A	The Version 3.1 hardware is essentially the same as the Version 3.0 hardware. Adds "SecureEasySetup" button.
4.0	Broadcom BCM5352 @ 200 MHz	16 MB	4 MB	CDFA	12 V 1 A	Switched to new SoC
5.0 or Higher						Not Compatible with HSMM - Mesh

WRT54GS

Version	CPU	RAM	Flash memory	S/N Prefix	Notes
1.0	Broadcom BCM4712 @ 200 MHz	32 MB	8 MB	CGN0 CGN1	ADMtek 6996L switch. Added SpeedBooster technology (Broadcom Afterburner technology), claims to boost the throughput of 802.11g by 30% (for maximum boost needs SpeedBooster technology on the other side, but will boost standard 802.11g as well). Has LEDs for Power, DMZ, WLAN, Internet, and 1–4 Ports.
1.1	Broadcom BCM4712 @ 200 MHz	32 MB	8 MB	CGN2	Switched to Broadcom BCM4712 SoC and BCM5325E switch.
2.0	Broadcom BCM4712 @ 216 MHz	32 MB	8 MB	CGN3	10 LED Front Panel (two new ones behind Cisco logo button). Also capable of SecureEasySetup, but use of the logo button and lighting of the new LEDs behind it requires firmware upgrade. SoC chip REV1 or REV 2. The flash chip on this unit is Intel TE28F640.
2.1	Broadcom BCM4712 @ 216 MHz	32 MB	8 MB	CGN4	Radio chip is changed from BCM2050 to BCM2050KML.
3.0	Broadcom BCM5352 @ 200 MHz	32 MB	8 MB	CGN5	Switched to newer Broadcom SoC
4.0	Broadcom BCM5352 @ 200 MHz	16 MB	4 MB	CGN6	Reduced RAM & Flash (a very rare few have 32 MB/8 MB)
5.0 or Higher					Not Compatible with HSMM - Mesh

WRT54GL

Version	CPU	RAM	Flash memory	S/N Prefix	Notes
1.0	Broadcom BCM5352 @ 200 MHz	16 MB	4 MB	CL7A	New model line, released after the version 5 WRT54G, which returns to a Linux-based OS as opposed to the VxWorks firmware. SpeedBooster is not enabled in stock firmware, however third-party firmware will enable the feature. The hardware is essentially the same as the WRT54G version 4.0. One alteration is that the internal numbering scheme of the 4-port switch changed in this model, from 1 2 3 4, to 3 2 1 0.
1.1	Broadcom BCM5352 @ 200 MHz	16 MB	4 MB	CL7B CL7C CF7C	Detachable antennas. As of August, 2009, this version was shipping with firmware revision 4.30.11. This pre-loaded firmware allows the user to upload a 4 MB firmware image, whereas the pre-loaded firmware on version 1.0 limited the image to 3 MB. Firmware version 4.30.15 is now available for both hardware versions. Fully supported by Tomato, OpenWrt, and DD-WRT.