

Amateur Radio Using Digital Modes

Lab 5: Experimentation

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What you will need

- Laptop running up to date build of Windows, Linux or Mac OSX with external USB sound device installed and functional
- Completion of Labs 1-4

Purpose

Get familiar with various digital modes understanding their strengths and weaknesses.

Introduction

Quick wins are inspirational and that was the focus of Lab 4 to make it easy to make your first digital contact using a popular mode known as PSK31.

In this lab we will continue to work in groups sharing frequency share a frequency making the same contacts but introducing you to other digital modes. Macros saved you from having some to say so this we will make the interaction “keyboard-to-keyboard.”

Exercise

Repeat Lab 4 for each of the following digital modes

- RTTY
- MT63: MT632000L
- One of your choosing

Instead of using the QSO macro button for each contact, make it an interactive “keyboard-to-keyboard” conversation as follows:

<u>STEPS</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
1. Click the <u>T/R macro button</u> to put the station into transmit mode.	
2. In the bottom/blue window type the <u>station’s callsign</u> then yours to begin conversation.	For example: W2BBB DE W2H
3. Hit <u>return</u> for a new lined then start typing a message.	Notice your typing speed relative to when the message is sent as indicated when a letter goes from blue to red.
4. When your message us complete, close the transmission by typing the station’s callsign then yours appended with <u>KN</u> .	For example: W2BBB DE W2H KN
5. Click the <u>T/R macro button</u> to put the station back into receive mode.	

For each mode . . .

- What did you notice about the bandwidth used for each?
- What did you notice about speed comparisons between each?

I hope you enjoyed this introduction to Digital Modes and found it helpful.