



# Having Fun with CW

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# Are these kids having fun or what?







# Old guys have fun with Morse Code, too







# Why CW?

- \* Folkloric, historic...
- \* Gets through when no other modes will.
- \* CW is the mode of choice for /P ops.
- \* Fewer "lids" on CW.
- \* Good for operators with poor hearing.





# Why CW?

- \* Work more DX.
- \* Score higher in contests.
- \* ID beacons and repeaters which send CW
- \* **Because it's fun!**





# Learning the Code Self-Study

- \* Learn CW Online - <https://lcwo.net>
- \* G4FON CW Trainer - <http://www.g4fon.net>
- \* K7QO Code Course - <https://www.kkn.net/~k7qo/>
- \* Morse Code Ninja - <https://morsecode.ninja/>





# Learning the Code Apps

- \* Android

- \* IZ2UUF Morse Koch CW, Morse Machine, Morse Mania

- \* iPhone

- \* Morse Mania, Morse-It, Ham Morse





# Learning the Code Classes

- \* CW Ops CW Academy - [cwops.org/  
cwacademy.html](http://cwops.org/cwacademy.html)
- \* Long Island CW Club - [longislandcwclub.org](http://longislandcwclub.org)





# Learning the Code Tips

- \* Tips for Learning the Code - <http://www.arrl.org/learning-morse-code>
- \* Start! You'll never learn it if you don't start.
- \* Learn the characters as sounds. It's dits and dahs, not dots and dashes.





# Learning the Code

## More Tips

- \* Practice during the day with everyday things. Spell out their names in Morse Code.
- \* Practice sending.
- \* Learn with a friend. Send code back and forth to one another.
- \* Join a CW club: Long Island CW Club, FISTS, NAQCC, SKCC





# Learning the Code

## More Tips

### \*Get on the air!

Don't be discouraged if you don't copy 100%. You don't need to copy every single character to take part in a QSO.

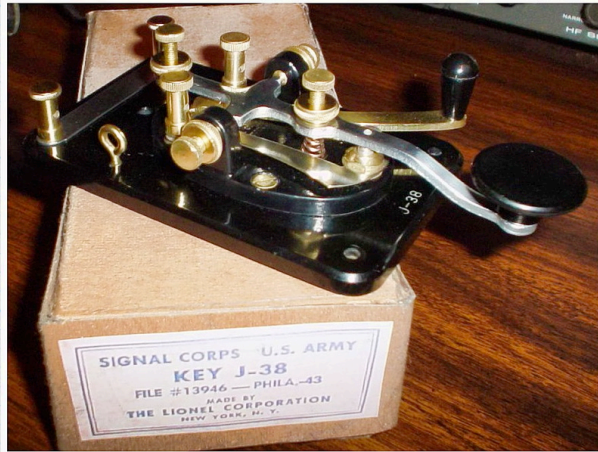




# Getting Started

## Choosing a Key

\*The three basic types are straight key, bug, paddle and keyer







# Getting Started

## Choosing a Key

- \* It's tempting to start out with a straight key because it's the simplest way to go
- \* I recommend starting with a paddle and keyer, however. It takes a bit more practice to master, but you'll send better code and sending is much easier on the arm.
- \* This means it will be more fun, and you'll be more likely to stick with it





# Getting Started

## Key Vendors

- \* **Begali.** Italian engineering at its finest. These keys are beautifully made and work beautifully. \$180 and up. Way up.
- \* **Vibroplex.** An American classic! Vibroplex now makes and sells the Bencher keys. \$180 and up.
- \* **N3ZN.** American made! Also some very nice keys. \$335 and up.
- \* **Kent Morse Keys.** English design, made in Germany. TP1-B: \$165
- \* **CW Morse 3D printed paddles.** ≈\$35





# Making Contacts

## A Basic QSO

- \* Calling CQ

- \* CQ CQ CQ DE KB6NU KB6NU KB6NU K

- \* Reply to CQ

- \* KB6NU KB6NU DE W8JNZ W8JNZ K





# Making Contacts

## A Basic QSO

- \* The First Exchange

- \* W8JNZ DE KB6NU TNX FER CALL-UR RST 599  
599-NAME IS DAN DAN-QTH ANN ARBOR, MI  
ANN ARBOR, MI-HW? W8JNZ DE KB6NU K

- \* KB6NU DE W8JNZ R TNX FER RPT-UR RST 599  
599-NAME IS CLAY CLAY-QTH DIXBORO, MI  
DIXBORO, MI-HW NW? KB6NU DE W8JNZ K





# Making Contacts Abbreviations

- \* CW ops use abbreviations to transfer more information in a short period of time.
- \* Can be confusing. Sometimes there are two commonly-used abbreviations for the same word, i.e. TNX and TKS for “thanks.”
- \* List of commonly-used abbreviations:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morse\\_code\\_abbreviations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morse_code_abbreviations)





# Making Contacts

## Q Signals

- \* Q-signals are also used to speed up a message.
- \* Q-signals take the place of entire phrases, not just words.
- \* For example, QTH ANN ARBOR, MI means, "My location is Ann Arbor, MI."





# Making Contacts

## Q Signals

- \* When followed by a question mark, the Q-signal is a question. QTH? means, "What is your location?"
- \* Other common Q-signals include QRM (You are being interfered with), QSB (Your signals are fading), and QRS (Send slower!).
- \* List of Q-Signals: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Q\\_code#Amateur\\_radio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Q_code#Amateur_radio)





# Making Contacts Prosigns

- \* Prosigns = procedural signals.
- \* Similar to abbreviations, but usually call for the other operator to do something.
- \* For example, the prosign "K" is used at the end of a transmission to invite the other operator to start sending.





# Making Contacts Prosigns

- \* Other frequently used prosigns include R (all received correctly), AS (wait), BK (break in immediately).
- \* List of prosigns:  
[www.radiotelegraphy.net/prosigns.htm](http://www.radiotelegraphy.net/prosigns.htm)





# Making Contacts

## Really make contact

- \* Get the formalities out of the way and make an effort to get to know the other operator.
- \* Look up the other operator on QRZ.Com.
- \* Ask the other op about what projects he or she is working on, other hobbies, even town name.





# Getting Faster

- \* GET ON THE AIR!

- \* Learn to copy in your head.

- \* GET ON THE AIR!

- \* CWOPs' CW Academy





# Getting Faster

- \* GET ON THE AIR!
- \* Work contests. Not all contests are 30+ wpm affairs, such as state QSO parties and the K1USN Slow Speed Test

**GET ON THE AIR!  
HAVE FUN!**





# Questions?

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