

Field Day Preparation – Session 2

Sending Morse Code

Types of Morse Manipulators

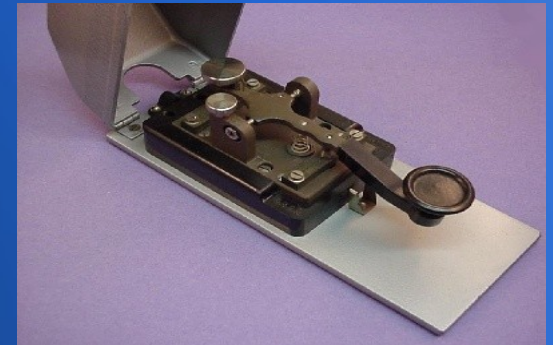
You can send Morse several ways

- Straight Key
- Bug
- Keyer/Paddles
- Keyboard or PC

Straight Key

There are many different Straight Keys out there!

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Bug

- A Bug is a mechanical semi-automatic key
- Dits are automatic, dahs are manual
- Bugs are not all that popular.
 - Difficult to use well
 - Can't generally send slower than 20-25 wpm!



Paddles and Keyer

Paddles and Keyer work on a similar concept to a bug.

- Boths dits and dahs are generated automatically
- The Paddle controls the Keyer
- Usually left paddle generates dits, right paddle generates dahs
- Most newer radios include a keyer, but you can also use an external keyer

Paddles and Keyer

Keyer can be integrated with paddles or separate



Keyboard or PC

We'll see this more when we talk about
contesting...

Sending with a Straight Key

Timings:

- Dit is 1 unit
- Dah is 3 units
- Space between characters is 3 units
- Space between words is 7 units

Sending with a Straight Key

American style:

- Elbow just off edge of table
- Arm rests lightly on the table
- Wrist off table, arm more or less “flat”
- Motion is at the wrist, not fingers

Sending with a Straight Key

British style:

- Key positioned with knob at edge of table
- Forearm roughly extends from the key lever, 90-degree bend at elbow.
- Arm should hang comfortably from the shoulder.

Sending with a Straight Key

- Wait to practice sending til you can copy successfully
 - This way, you already know what the characters should sound like
 - Won't have to think about the spacing much
- Never send faster than you can receive
 - This might require you to consciously slow down your sending

Sending with a Straight Key

- Practicing:
 - Use a tape recorder and listen to your sending the next day
 - Send the text of a book, magazine, phone book, etc
 - Can also use a CW Decoder program
 - <http://www.amqrp.org/projects/cwdecod/decoder.htm>