WSJT-X

Check out advance features up to version 3.0.

NEW ADVANCED FEATURES

- Tick box under Rig Data, Read and display Power, and SWR.
- Tick box to halt transmit when SWR is >2.5.
- Band hopping, allows a station to transmit or receive WSPR signals on multiple bands in a scheduled manner. This helps in gathering propagation data across a wide frequency range.
- User hardware scripts: can also execute custom scripts during band changes to handle addition hardware switching such as antenna relays or filters.
- Spot Reporting: When receiving it can decode WSPR signals and report them to WSPRnet, a global database of signal paths and propagation conditions.

REFRESHER COURSE WITH WSJT-X_IMPROVED PLUS

- Download version 3.0 from Sourceforge.net
- Open the app and go to File and Settings.
- General tab enter your call sign and grid.
- Radio tab enter your radio setup information.
- Audio tab enter your sound card Audio USB Codec.
- New to WSJT-X is Rig Data:
- Check, Read and display PWR, and SWR.
- Check, Halt TX when SWR> 2.5. You will want this to save your rig if some goes wrong especially with modes like WSPR.
- There are many new features so you will want to read the manual about the advance features.

IN GENERAL

- There is a lot of great new features in WSJT-X version 3.0.
- I will move on to the main presentation on WSPR.
- Thank you to Mike, KEØQKF, for his contribution to the WSPR project about band hopping.
- I will not cover things like the physics and math behind it all. I will cover just enough to make it usable.
- I highly recommend using Windows Co-Pilot to answer any questions you might have while using WSJT-X or WSPR.

WSPR

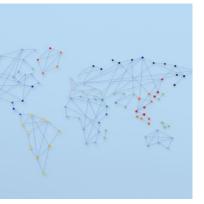
Weak Signal Propagation Reporter Presented by Larry Truesdell AKØZ

Exploring WSPR in Ham Radio



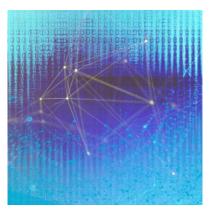
Low-Power Signal Transmission

WSPR uses minimal power to send signals that can travel great distances, ideal for monitoring propagation.



Global Signal Path Analysis

WSPR allows ham operators to analyze how radio waves travel worldwide, revealing propagation patterns.



Automatic Reporting Network

WSPR's network collects and shares data automatically, offering insights into atmospheric conditions and antenna efficiency.

KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WSPR TRANSMITTERS AND RECEIVERS

| FEATURE | TRANSMITTER | RECEIVER |
|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Role | Sends encoded signal | Listens and decodes signal |
| Power | Very low (mW to few W) | Passive, no transmission |
| Timing | Precise 2-min slots | Synchronized to decode correctly |
| Modulation | FSK (narrow bandwidth) | DSP decoding |
| Hardware | Microcontroller, SDR, or PC | SDR, PC, or traditional receiver |
| Software | WSJT-X, custom firmware | WSJT-X, decoding/reporting tools |
| Reporting | No automatic reporting | Uploads to WSPRnet |

WSPR TRANSMITTERS

- Function: Transmitters send out low-power signals encoded with information such as callsign, grid locator, and power level.
- Power Output: Typically very low—often less than 5 watts, and sometimes as low as milliwatts.
- Timing: Transmissions occur in synchronized 2-minute time slots, usually coordinated via GPS or internet time servers.
- Modulation: Uses frequency-shift keying (FSK) with very narrow bandwidth (~6 Hz).
- Hardware Requirements: Can be built using simple microcontrollers (like Arduino or Raspberry Pi), SDRs (Software Defined Radios), or dedicated WSPR transmitters.
- Software: Software like WSJT-X or custom firmware handles encoding and timing.
- A digital mode used for beacon transmissions.
- Results appear in real time on the internet.

WSPR RECEIVERS

- Function: Receivers listen for WSPR signals and decode them to extract the transmitted information.
- 2. Sensitivity: Must be extremely sensitive to detect signals as low as -30 dB SNR in a 2.5 kHz bandwidth.
- 3. Decoding: Uses DSP (Digital Signal Processing) to decode weak signals buried in noise.
- 4. Reporting: Automatically uploads decoded data (callsign, location, SNR, frequency, etc.) to online databases like WSPRnet.
- 5. Hardware Requirements: Can use SDRs, traditional receivers, or even web-based SDRs. Antenna quality and noise floor are critical.
- 6. Software: WSJT-X is the most common software used for decoding and reporting.

FREQUENCIES

- USB dial (MHz): 0.136, 0.4742, 1.8366, 3.5686, 5.2872, 5.3647, 7.0386, 10.1387, 13.5539, 14.0956, 18.1046, 21.0946, 24.9246, 28.1246, 50.293, 70.091, 144.489, 432.300, 1296.500
- The Beacon signal is 6 Hz wide in a 2.5 kHz bandwidth. There
 is a 2 minute transmit cycle after which the receiver decodes
 the signal. The decoded data (SPOT) is then uploaded to
 WSPRnet.org.

WSPR RETRIEVABLE DATA - 1

1. WSPRnet.org: where most WSPR reception reports are uploaded.

- Live maps: showing signal paths between transmitters and receivers.
- Searchable logs: by callsign, band, time, and location.
- CSV exports: of spot data for offline analysis.
- Filters: for band, mode, distance and more.
- ------

2. WSPR Live: An advanced visualization and analysis platform that:

- Uses a Grafana dashboard for real-time data visualization.
- Offers SQL query access to the full WSPRnet dataset.
- Supports Google Earth overlays and bulk data exports.

WSPR RETRIEVABLE DATA - 2

- 3. VK7JJ WSPR Map
- A popular interactive map that :
- Displays real-time and historical WSPR spots
- Allows filtering by band, callsign and time
- Visualizes propagation paths globlally
- ------
- 4. WSPRnet Viewer (Android App).
- An app that:
- Periodically retrieves and displays WSPR data.
- Shows transmitter/receiver locations on a map
- Allows filtering and notifications for propagation conditions.

3RD PARTY MAPS AND DATA

- WSPR Rocks!
- M0XDK Map
- KB9AMG Monthly Stats
- WA2ZKD Spot Analysis
- DJ2LS WSPR Spot Heat Map
- LU7AA/LU7ABF Maps/Graphs my favorite

A SPOT OR DATA TO BE SEEN ON WSPRNET.ORG AND OTHER SITES

| Field Name | Description |
|--|--|
| Timestamp (UTC) Callsign Grid Locator Frequency (MHz) | Time the signal was received, in Coordinated Universal Time Transmitting station's callsign Maidenhead grid square of the transmitting station Frequency on which the signal was received |
| SNR (dB) Drift (Hz) Power (dBm) | Signal-to-noise ratio of the received signal Frequency drift during the 2-minute transmission Transmitter power level as reported by the sender |
| Receiver Callsign Receiver Locator | Callsign of the receiving station Grid locator of the receiving station |
| Distance (km) Azimuth (°) Mode | Calculated distance between transmitter and receiver Direction from receiver to transmitter (bearing in degrees) Transmission mode, usually 'WSPR' |

WHAT IS WSPR USED FOR?

- The received information will be uploaded to the internet to a data base on WSPRNET.org.
- It can be used for learning about HF propagation. Each HF band has different characteristics. With WSPR you can see what is happening at different times of the day with the aid of band hopping.
- From maps such as what is on WSPRNET.org, you see how far your signal will reach and in which direction. Which is good for testing antennas.
- Comparing antennas with other people.
- Because it is basically automatic it can be use when not in your shack.

BAND HOPPING

- WSJT-X includes a band hopping feature that allows your station to automatically switch between bands at scheduled intervals. This is useful for propagation studies and maximizing reception/transmission across multiple bands.
- WSJT-X uses CAT control to change bands on your radio.
- You can define active bands for different times of day (Sunrise, Day, Sunset, Night).
- The software follows a 2-minute transmission cycle, hopping to a new band every few minutes.
- You can also configure tune-up transmissions to help automatic antenna tuners adjust when switching bands. If you are using default settings for band hopping use the following chart.

Band hopping cont....

- If the box labeled Tune is checked for a particular band, WSJT-X transmits an unmodulated carrier for several seconds just after switching to that band and before the normal Rx or Tx period starts. This feature can be used to activate an automatic antenna tuner (ATU) to tune a multi-band antenna to the newly selected band.
- If a RX box is ticked, then you will only receive spots and upload them to the internet.
 This is nice if you have your radio on anyway you can spot in the background or while you are away from your radio.
- All other boxes are for beacon and spotting automatically on various bands of your choosing. It is smart enough to no the difference between the times of the day.



Under settings and reporting and logging check, log automatically. Under Mode select WSPR. Set an automatic time sync with an app like NetTime, or Dimension 4. Set AGC to OFF.

- When WSJT-X decodes incoming WSPR signals, it checks if your callsign appears in any of them.
- If it doesn't, it shows "No own call decodes", meaning:
 - You didn't transmit during that cycle, or
 - No one received your transmission and reported it, or
 - You didn't receive any signals that included your callsign as the sender or receiver.
 - Check box, "No own call decodes".
- Why this matters:
- It helps you monitor whether your station is being heard.
- If you're transmitting and consistently see this message, it could indicate:
 - Poor propagation conditions.
 - Low transmit power.
 - Antenna issues.
 - Incorrect configuration (e.g., wrong callsign or grid locator).

What does "Prefer type 1 messages" do?

When this option is enabled:

- •WSJT-X will try to use the standard Type 1 message format whenever possible.
- •If your callsign and grid locator fit within the constraints of Type 1 (e.g., callsign is 6 characters or fewer, grid is 4 characters), it will use that format.
- •If your callsign or grid is too long or non-standard (e.g., a suffix like /QRP or a 6-character grid), WSJT-X may switch to Type 2 or Type 3 messages, which are longer and less efficient.

BP box. When enabled, it applies a band-pass filter to the received audio signal.

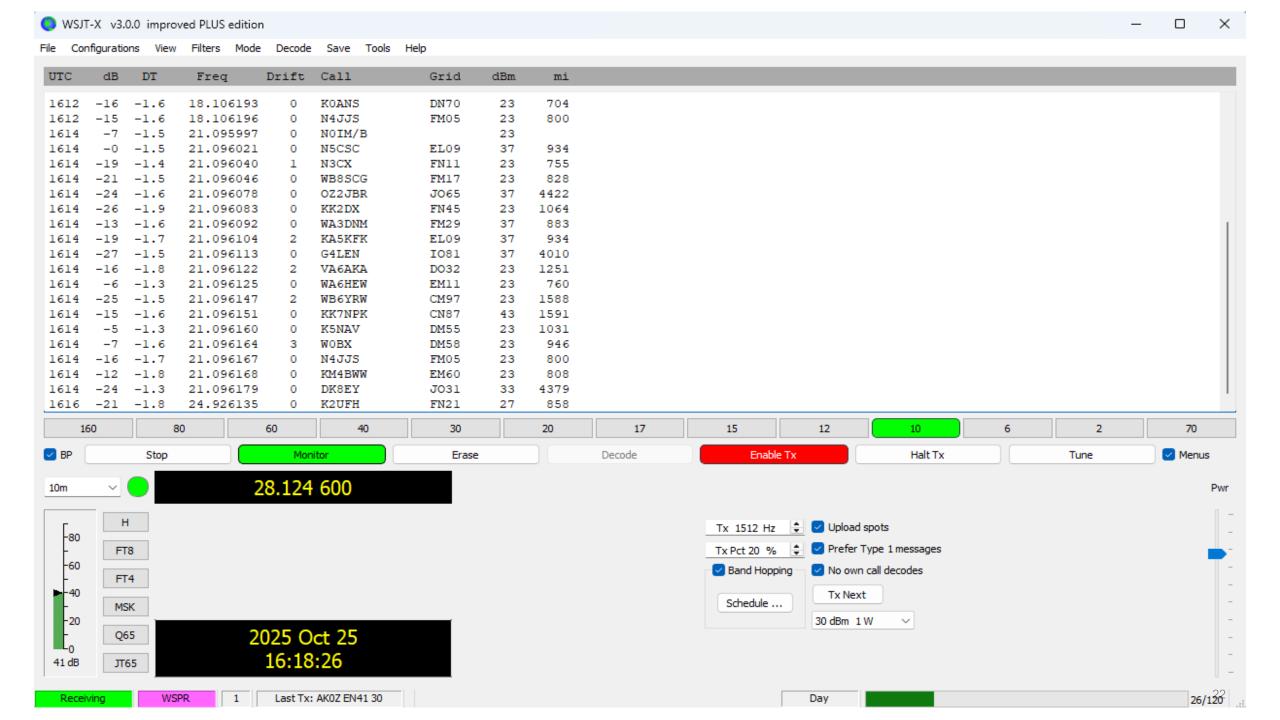
This filter helps reduce noise and interference outside the narrow WSPR signal bandwidth (typically around 200 Hz).

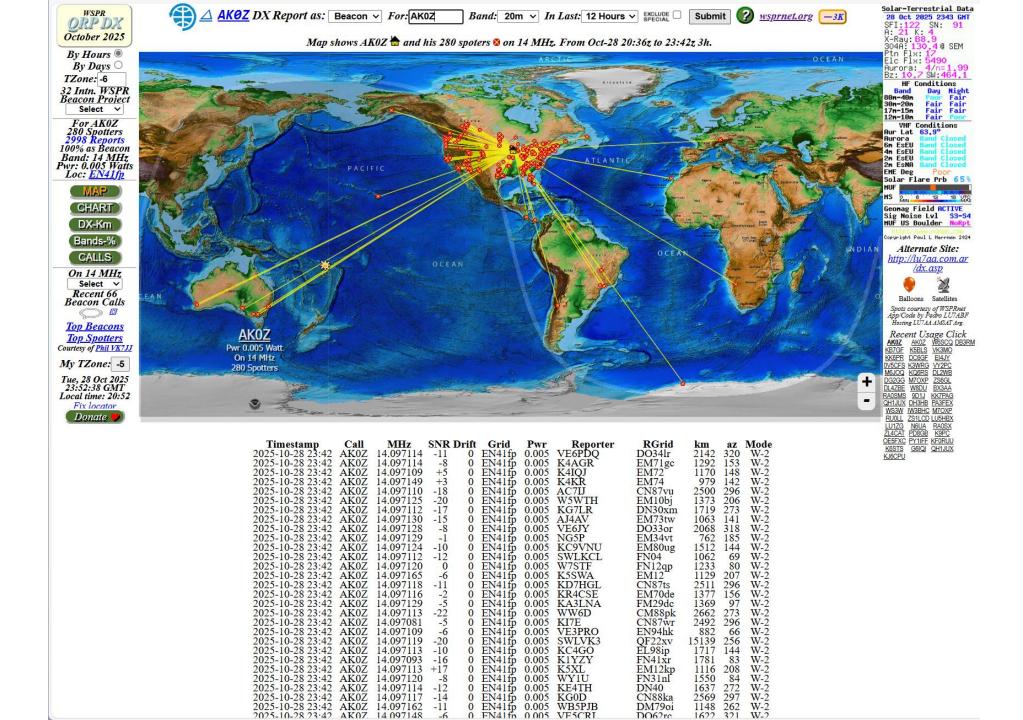
It can improve decoding performance by focusing only on the frequency range where WSPR signals are expected.

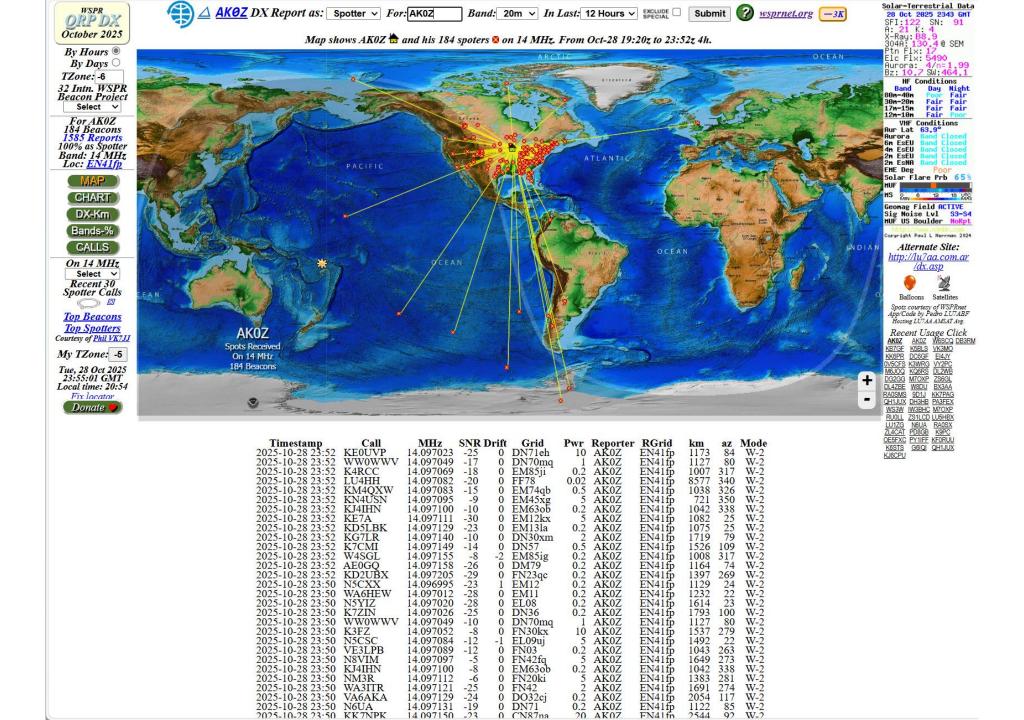
This feature is especially useful in noisy environments or when operating on crowded bands.

Adjust the PWR slide so that the ALC is just registering. Adjust the RF gain so that you read approximately 70db.

Select the TX next, to transmit on the next receive cycle.







SUMMARY

- This is a short description as to what happens to a WSPR Beacon and Spot.
- Transmit a Beacon signal with data like call sign, power output, grid locator, date and time stamp, etc. This 2-minute signal is usually 5 to less than 1 watt and only 6 Hz wide within a bandwidth of 2.5kHz. This data is received by another ham's receiver from anywhere around the world. The receiving station sends the data or (Spot) usually automatically to the internet to be uploaded to a site like WSPRnet.org. By going to this site, you can view your spots in the form of a chart and on a map. The chart will show you all the spot information you have sent with the Beacon, and the map will show you where your signal is being received and the location of the receivers. You can use this information to see where your antenna is being heard and determine how well your antenna is working and how well the propagation to certain areas during that time of the day or date.