GET GOING GUIDE

HFConverse **RTTY**

Classic radioteletype: transmit, then listen

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RTTY has no link and no error correction. You transmit, then you listen, and nothing checks that the other station copied you. Turn-taking is by good manners.

> **Golden rule:** if you're ever unsure whether you're still transmitting, press the red **Receive / STOP** button.

Before you start

Get these right once and every mode just works.

1. **Your callsign is set.** Settings ▸ Station. Without it, Send CQ stays greyed out.
2. **HFC is connected to the modem.** The Terminal shows the modem's `cmd:` prompt. The Mode menu only works while you're connected.
3. **Radio control works, if you have it.** Type a frequency and press **Set Frequency**: the radio should move. No CAT? Set the frequency on the radio by hand.
4. **The radio is in USB or USB-Data** (DIGU), with the audio level that already works for your modem.
5. **Open the screen from the Mode menu: Mode ▸ RTTY**.

For RTTY also check:

- **You only hear RTTY after pressing Start RTTY.** Nothing decodes before that, and the other station must be in RTTY too.
- **On a P4 Dragon (DR-7800/DR-7400) or DR-9400, RTTY is receive-only.** Their firmware can't transmit RTTY, so Transmit and Send CQ are greyed out.

The screen

The main parts:

Part	What it is
Received	Decoded text from the band.
Working line	**Working**, **Name** and **QSO Start**.
Compose	Where you type ahead while receiving.
Baud, Shift, Polarity	The RTTY settings. HFC remembers them.
Radio	Frequency, **Set Frequency**, **Read From Radio**, the **Step** buttons and **Favorites**.
Buttons	**Start RTTY / Stop RTTY**, **Send CQ**, **Transmit**, **Receive / STOP**.

Setting up

1. Set the frequency. 14080–14090 kHz is the usual area on 20 m.
2. **Baud: 45**, the amateur standard.
3. **Shift and Polarity:** with the radio on USB or USB-Data, use **Low** with **Normal**, or **High** with **Reverse**.
4. Press **Start RTTY**. The button turns blue and the status strip says *Receiving*.
5. Tune with the **Step** buttons until text prints cleanly. The ±10 Hz pair is for the last bit.
6. Signal there but only rubbish prints, full of figures and punctuation? Switch **Polarity**. This fixes it most of the time.

★ **Save current** saves the frequency with its baud, shift and polarity, so a favorite comes back exactly as you left it. The **Wide 450 / 850 Hz** shifts are for listening to weather and commercial stations; transmit is off while one is chosen.

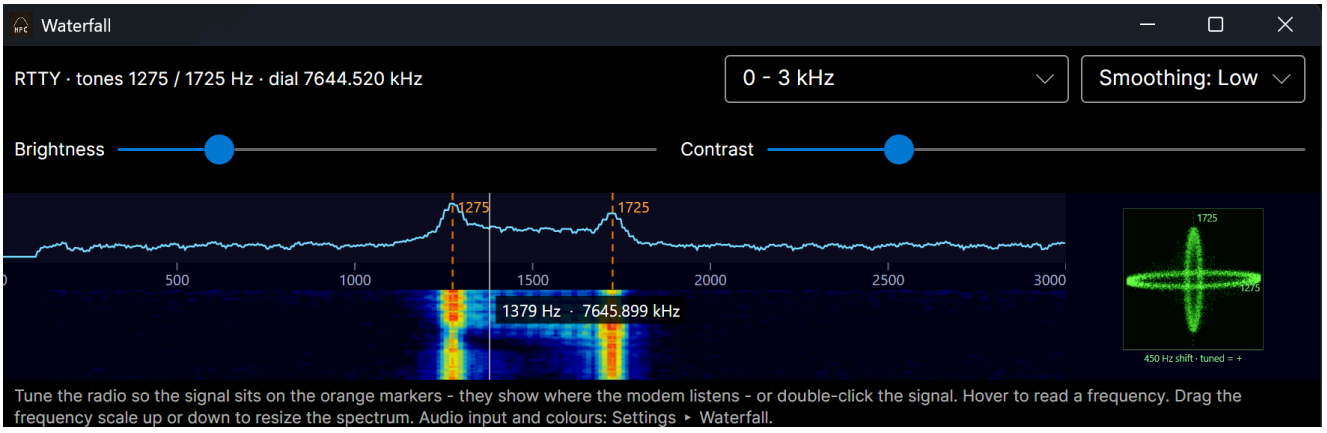
Listening to weather RTTY

A good way to try the RTTY screen, and the only use for it on a P4 Dragon or DR-9400: the German Weather Service (DWD) sends weather reports in RTTY around the clock.

Station	Set the dial to (USB)
DDK2	4581.5 kHz
DDH7	7644.5 kHz
DDK9	10099.3 kHz

1. **Baud: 50**, **Shift: Wide 450 Hz**.
2. Press **Start RTTY** and tune with the **Step** buttons until text prints.
3. Rubbish prints? Switch **Polarity**.
4. ★ **Save current** keeps each one, with its baud, shift and polarity, as a favorite.

Tuning by eye. If you've chosen an audio input in Settings ▸ Audio, open **Station ▸ Waterfall** beside the RTTY screen. The two orange markers show where the modem listens. Tune until the signal's two tones sit on them, or simply double-click the signal and HFC sets the radio for you. The tuning indicator beside the waterfall then shows a clean **+**. Here is DDH7 on 7644.5 kHz, tuned:



Calling CQ

1. Press **Send CQ**. HFC transmits your CQ macro, then drops back to receive by itself.
2. Watch **Received** for a reply. Nothing pops up or connects: you just see their text.

Answering a CQ

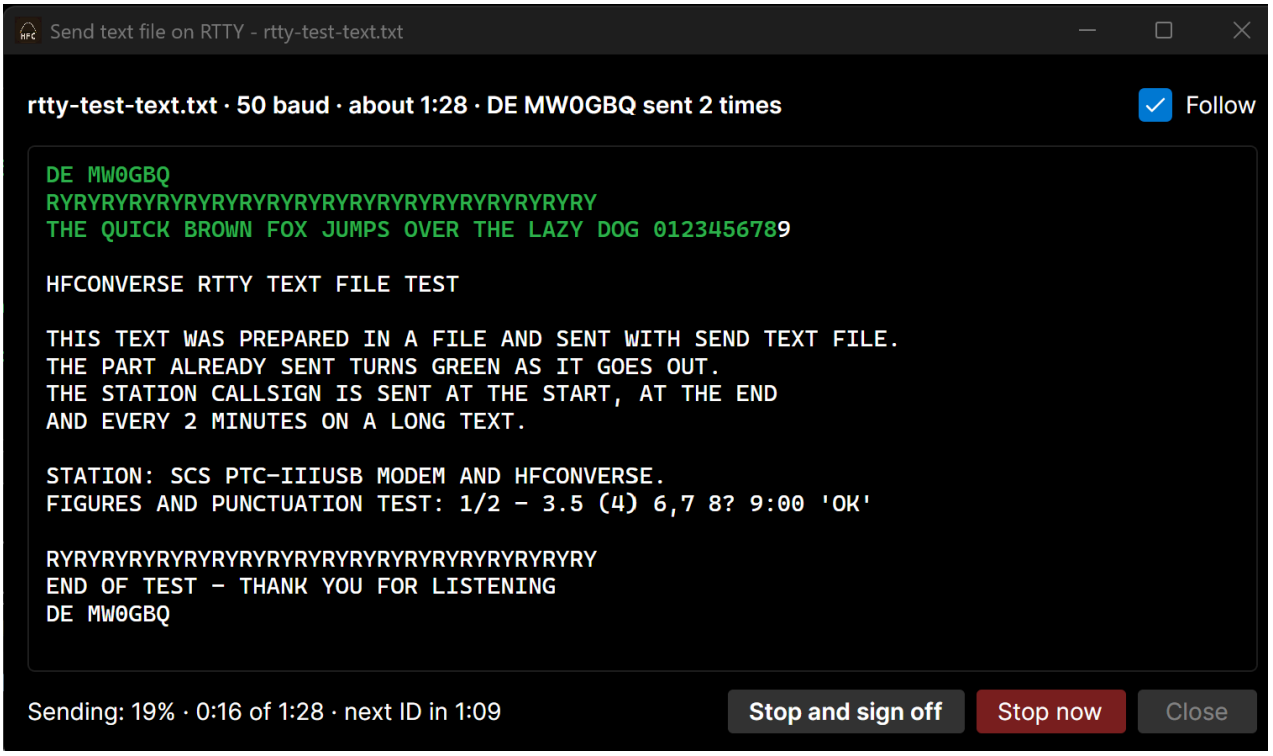
1. When their text appears, select their callsign, right-click, **Add selection to working callsign**.
2. Press **QSO Start** to mark the contact for the log.
3. Wait until they've clearly stopped sending.
4. Type your reply in Compose (or press an F-key macro), then press **Ctrl+Enter** or **Transmit**.
5. HFC drops back to receive after your text has gone.

The conversation

- Type ahead in Compose while they send. **Ctrl+Enter** transmits it when it's your turn.
- End each over with `G4QRS de GW0XYZ k` so they know it's their turn.
- HFC drops back to receive on its own a few seconds after your text should have finished.
- **Receive / STOP** stops transmitting at once. Press it any time you're unsure.

Sending a text file

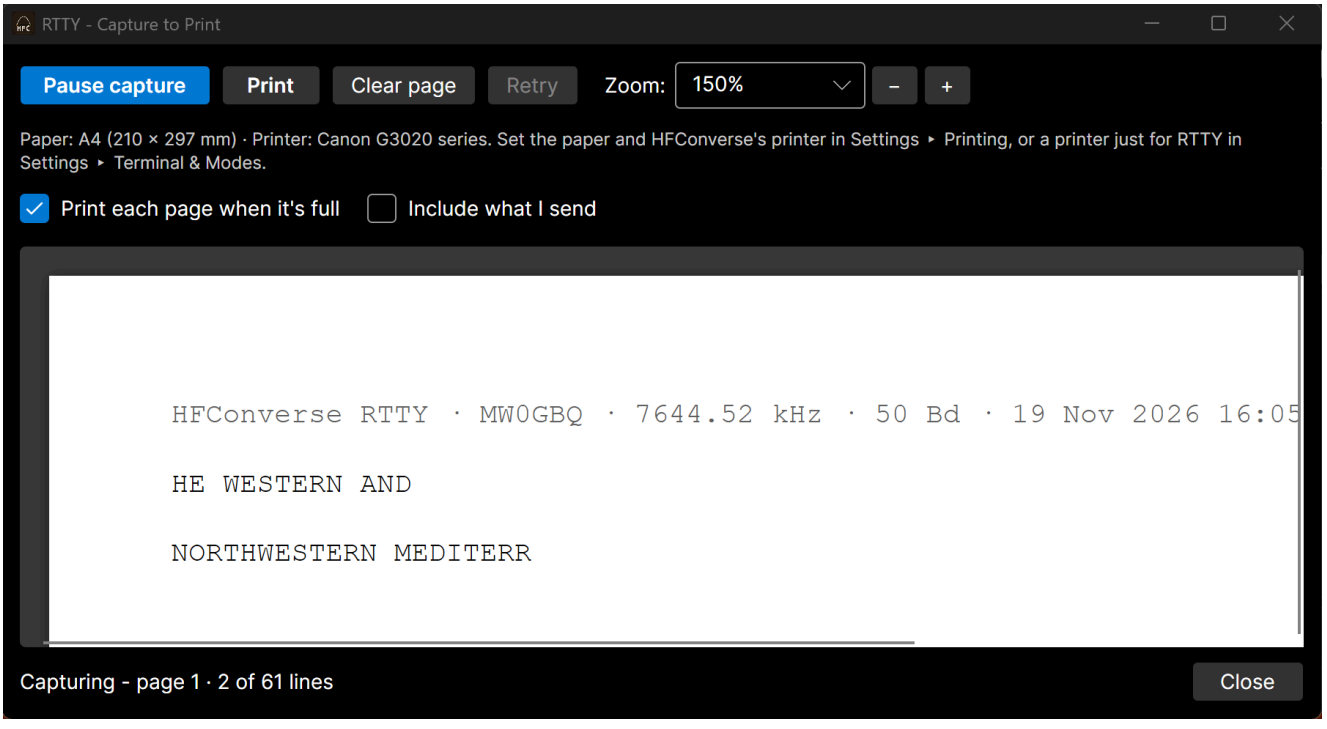
1. Write your text in a plain `.txt` file (Notepad on Windows; on a Mac, TextEdit with Format ▸ Make Plain Text; on Linux, any text editor). Only send text you wrote yourself or have permission to send.
2. Press **Send Text File…** and pick the file.
3. Read the copyright warning and how long it will take, then press **I accept - send**.
4. The text goes out from its own window and turns green as it is sent. `DE` and your callsign go out at the start, at the end and every 2 minutes.



5. To stop early, press **Stop and sign off** (your callsign goes out last) or **Stop now**.

Printing what you receive

1. Press **Capture to Print…** (above Received).
2. Check the paper and printer shown in the window. Change them in **Settings ▸ Printing** (or a printer just for RTTY in **Settings ▸ Terminal & Modes**).
3. Press **Start capture**. What you receive fills the page on screen, exactly as it will print.
4. A full page goes to the printer by itself. Press **Print** to print the page so far.



Ending and logging

1. Send your 73.
2. Press **QSO Stop**. The **Worked Station** window opens with the callsign, mode, frequency and both times. Press **Log QSO**.
3. Press **Stop RTTY**. HFC stops any transmission and returns the modem to its `cmd:` prompt.

Quick reference

I want to…	Do this
Start listening	**Start RTTY**
Fix garbled text	Switch **Polarity**
Call CQ	**Send CQ**
Answer someone	Type your reply, then **Ctrl+Enter** or **Transmit**
Send a prepared text	**Send Text File…**
Print what I receive	**Capture to Print…**, then **Start capture**
Stop at once	**Receive / STOP**
Log it	**QSO Start** at the beginning, **QSO Stop** at the end
Finish	**Stop RTTY**

When things go wrong

What you see	Try this
Nothing prints at all	Did you press **Start RTTY**? Is the radio in USB or USB-Data? Tune with **Step**.
Rubbish prints from a good signal	Switch **Polarity**. Check Baud is 45 (many weather stations use 50).
Transmit and Send CQ greyed out	A Wide shift is chosen, or your callsign isn't set, or it's a P4 Dragon or DR-9400. Hover over the button to see why.
Not sure if you're transmitting	Press **Receive / STOP**.
The radio doesn't move	Check radio control in Settings ▸ Equipment, or set the frequency by hand.
The modem won't leave RTTY	Type `PT` in the **cmd:** box.

Issue history

Issue	Date	Changes
6	November 2026	Sending a text file. Printing what you receive.
5	November 2026	The audio input is now in Settings ▸ Audio.
4	November 2026	Tuning by eye with the Waterfall and its tuning indicator.
3	October 2026	Listening to the German Weather Service (DWD) RTTY broadcasts.
2	October 2026	RTTY is receive-only on the P4 Dragon too, not just the DR-9400.
1	October 2026	First issue.

More detail on every screen and setting is in the HFConverse User Manual. mw0gbq.hamserve.uk · HFConverse is not affiliated with SCS.