

Morse Code

HISTORICALLY, RADIO amateurs have used Morse code as it has a number of advantages, especially under difficult conditions or where people do not have a common language.

Morse used to be compulsory for access to the HF bands because amateurs share some frequencies with other radio services and Morse was often the only common mode of communication. It was therefore the only way for those services to ask the amateurs to change frequency or stop transmitting if there was a serious case of interference. That situation

no longer exists, as the other services no longer use Morse code.

Only a few countries now require amateurs to learn Morse code to operate below 30MHz.

However, many amateurs still use Morse for their own enjoyment. The Foundation course continues to include an introduction to Morse and will show you how to continue learning if you wish to do so.

For the Foundation licence there is no test as such, but a suitable standard must be reached.

During the training

you will have a copy of the Morse code alphabet (see Fig 29), showing the letters and numbers. No punctuation or similar symbols are required.

Working with your instructor you will learn the sounds, decoding letter. You will also practice sending.

The text will be in the form of a contact between two radio amateurs,

eg M3ABC DE M0XYZ
TX HERE IS A KIT

Receiving

BETWEEN 20 and 30 characters will be sent by the tutor. You can choose the character speed and spacing in discussion with your tutor. There will be no procedural characters and the Callsigns will be M (0, 3 or 5) plus 3 letters.

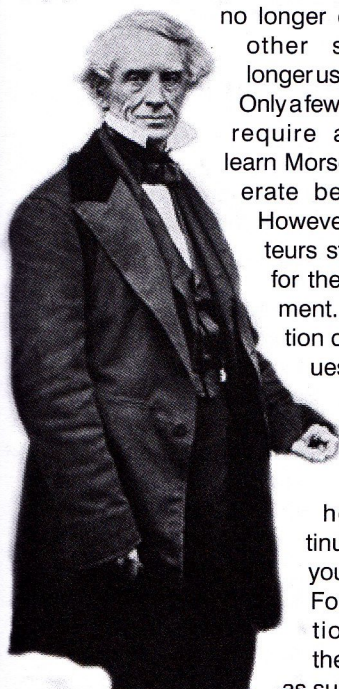
You will be provided with a copy of the Morse code alphabet and may write down the dots and dashes for subsequent transcription or proceed one letter at a time.

Your tutor may re-send characters wrongly recorded, or invite you to re-check characters correctly written in Morse but wrongly transcribed.

Sending

YOU WILL BE asked to send a pre-prepared text in the same form as you had for receiving. You can make any preparations you like prior to sending, including writing the Morse code for each character to be sent and of course you will still be able to use the Morse code alphabet provided.

Your tutor will indicate which characters, if any, were incorrectly sent and you will need to re-send these correctly. This may be on a letter by letter basis, or after you have sent the text.



The man who started it all - Samuel Morse.

A	• —	N	— •
B	— • • •	O	— — —
C	— • — •	P	• — — •
D	— • •	Q	— — • —
E	•	R	• — •
F	• • — •	S	• • •
G	— — •	T	—
H	• • • •	U	• • —
I	• •	V	• • • —
J	• — — —	W	• — —
K	— • —	X	— • • —
L	• — • •	Y	— • — —
M	— —	Z	— — • •

1	• — — — —	6	— • • • •
2	• • — — —	7	— — • • •
3	• • • — —	8	— — — • •
4	• • • • —	9	— — — — •
5	• • • • •	0	— — — — —

Fig 29: The letters of the Morse code alphabet required for the Foundation Licence.