

The first message ever sent using Morse code was "*What hath God wrought?*". This message was sent by Samuel Morse on May 24, 1844, from Washington, D.C. to Baltimore.

A few seconds later the reply arrived. "*We've been trying to reach you about your car warranty.*"

How NOT To Learn Morse Code

Hello

- Keith Ford
- K4KEF@keithford.com





If anyone takes photos during the session, please share them to
K4KEF@keithford.com



TL;DR

- ➡ keithford.com/files
- ➡ Learn by sound only, do not use picture or word associations
- ➡ Practice – Patience – Persistence
- ➡ It's not easy – take a friend



How **NOT** To Learn Morse Code

- Morse code is an aural language, you need to learn it with your ears, **not your eyes**.
- Do not use word or picture association
- Attempts to learn it using any visual means may work initially but will most likely cause you to hit a wall when trying to increase your speed.



DIT-DAH

DAH-DIT-DIT-DIT

DAH-DIT-DAH-DIT

DAH-DIT-DIT

DIT

DIT-DIT-DAH-DIT

DAD-DAH-DIT



DIT-DIT-DIT-DIT

DIT-DIT

DIT-DAH-DAH-DAH

DAH-DIT-DAH

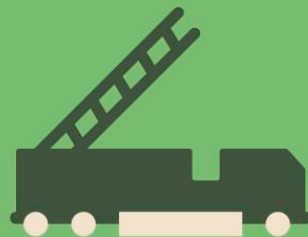
DIT-DAH-DIT-DIT

DAH-DAH

DAH-DIT



Eye



Firetruck



Giraffe



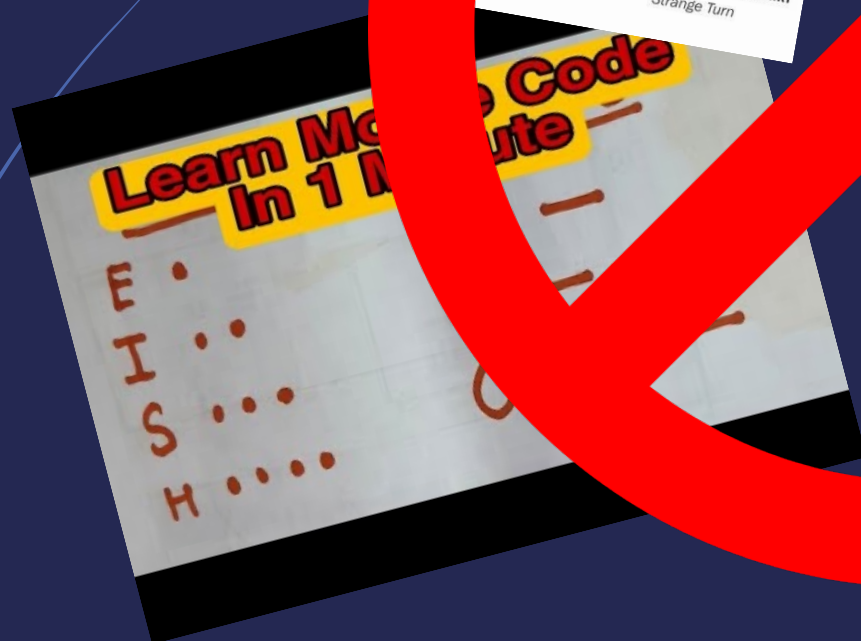
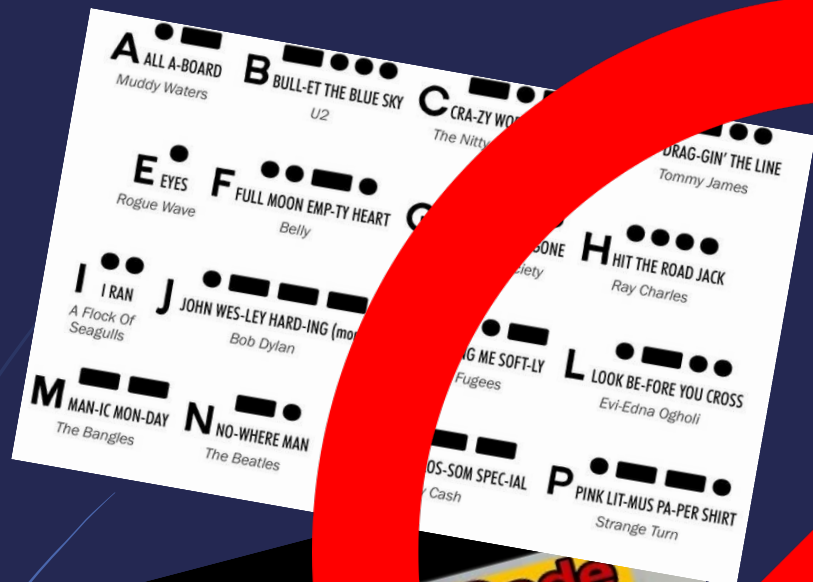
Insect



Jet



Kite





How To Learn Morse Code

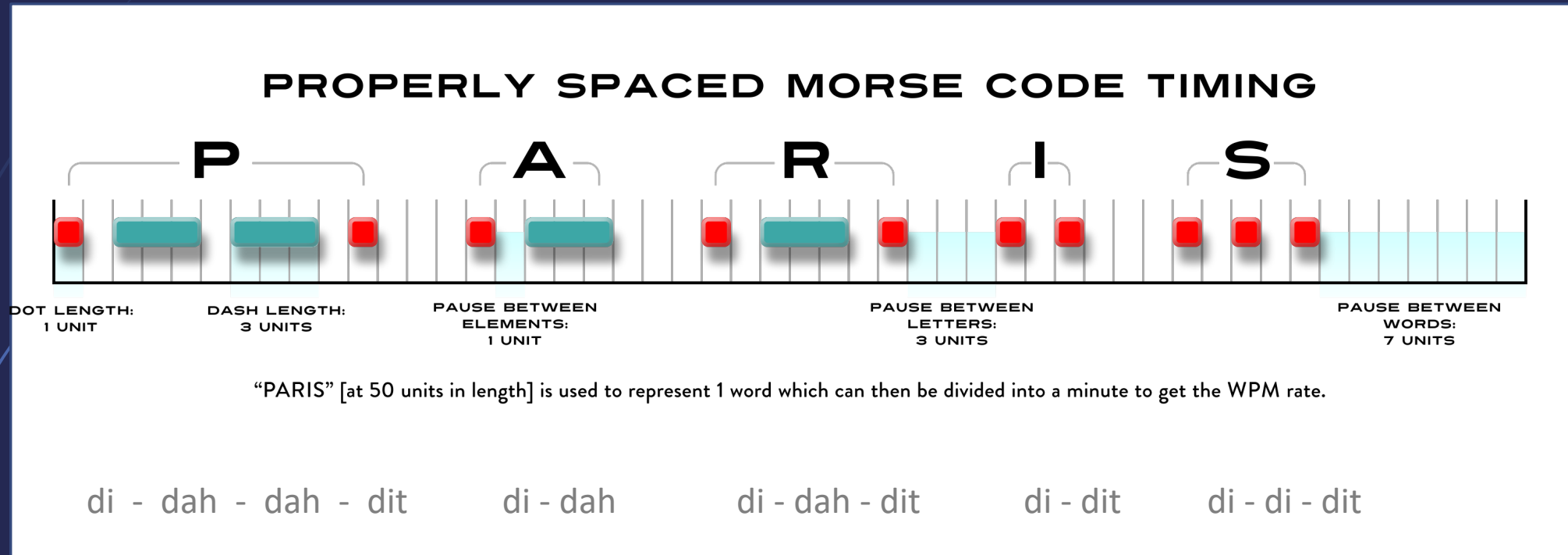
If you ask 10 people how to learn Morse code, you'll get 12 answers. It comes down to the basics:

- Practice
- Patience
- Persistence

Recommended Methods

- Learn by sound of the letter (do not count dits & dahs)
 - L is not “dot dash dot dot”, but “di-dah-di-dit”
- Koch – learn characters in certain order, start with two, add more as you become proficient
- Farnsworth – target character speed, adjust character spacing
 - 20/10 is common, we suggest using 30wpm character speed
- Most Apps support Farnsworth and Koch
- Now, what is character speed and WPM?

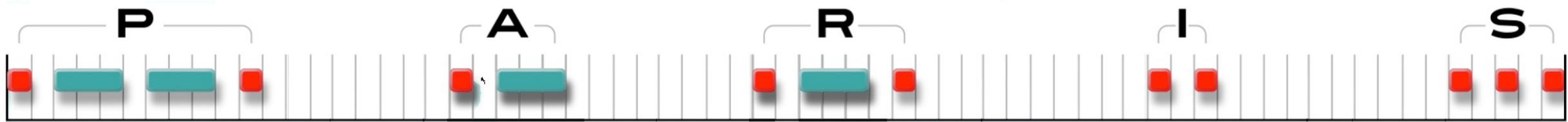
What is Morse Code?

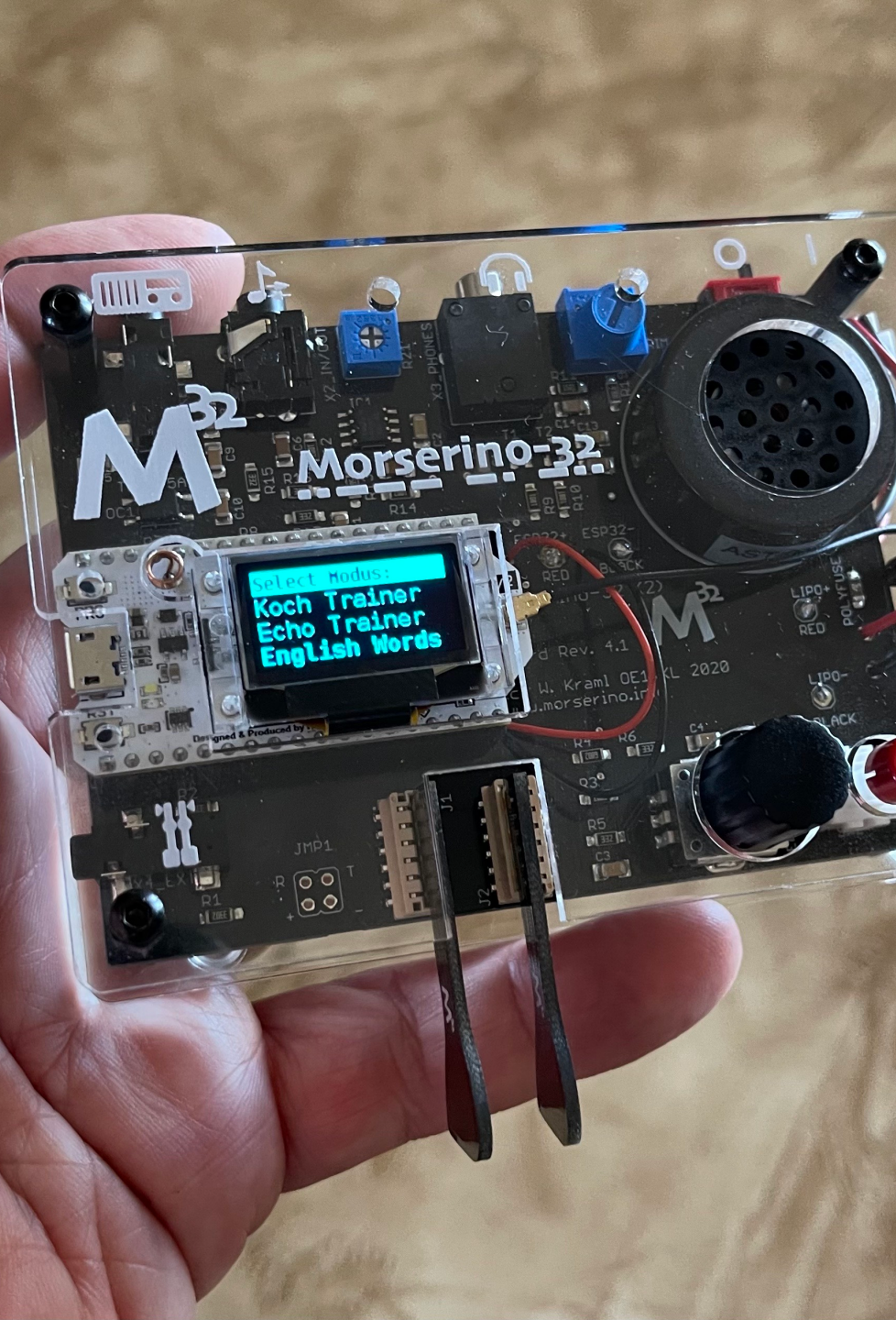


How Does Farnsworth Help?



How Does Farnsworth Help?





Helpful Tools

► Hardware

► Code Practice Oscillators

► Decoders

- Practice correct timing when learning to send with a straight key

► Morserino-32 kit

- Koch Trainer, Echo Trainer, CW Decoder
- CW Transceiver using WiFi
- qsobot.online

www.morserino.info

qrp-labs.com



Sending: Key vs Paddles

- Be comfortable with copying code before you start to practice sending.
- When one uses a straight key, one must use precise timing since the code is produced by physical manipulation. A paddle is different from a straight key since the difference in timing between the “dits” and the “dahs” is built into the unit.
- Learn sending with a straight key to ingrain these timings.



Apps

➤ Web Apps

- lcwo.net
- longislandcwclub.org
- morsecode.ninja
- morsecode.world
- learnmorsecode.org

➤ Mobile Apps

- Morse Maven
- Ham Morse
- Morse Toad
- Morse Machine
- Morse Mentor Pro
- Morse Mania

➤ Desktop Apps

- CW Trainer by G4FON

Some apps will send real QSOs, current headlines, and let you upload your own content.

They can also simulate real listening conditions such as band noise and signal fade.

*Warning about keyboard usage
with some apps*

Take Away Tips



Use both Koch and Farnsworth methods at the same time.



Practice 10-15 minutes twice a day.

* Habit Stacking *



CW operators will have “accents” so listen to real QSOs.

No radio? Try websdr.org

Find slow operators at hamalert.org



If you struggle, seek a practice buddy or join an online CW club. This can add even more fun.

Questions?



Scott Wooten-KW4NJA
Athens, GA

- Licensed in 2021
- LICW Member 2022
- Instructor 2023
- POTA/Contesting/DX/Ragchews
- Member of LICW, SKCC, CWOps, SECC

ABOUT OUR CLUB...

➤ **Founded in 2018**

- CW operators needed / Field Day 2017
- Give back to the community
- Goal: 50 members / Long Island area

➤ **More successful than we dreamed**

- Almost 8000 current members
- All 50 US States
- 70+ countries around the world
- 100+ Instructors and Moderators
- 180+ Zoom Classes/Forums weekly
- English & Spanish





THE LICW CURRICULUM

- At each level we offer sending classes to provide feedback to students as to how their fist sounds.
- We focus a lot on straight key sending in the Beginner's Sending classes, as this is where the most impact can be made—ensuring good element and character formation, including spacing.
- In addition, specialty forums are offered for sending with sideswipers, bugs, and single/dual lever paddles.



THE LICW METHOD

- Character Introduction in the Koch Method (single letter)
- 12 WPM- Allows learning acoustic sounds while using a SK
- Character sequence based on QSO Protocol
- Ensure characters heard as single acoustic sounds
- Establish character sound familiarity

A SPECIAL CULTURE

- No officers or board of directors
- Bottom-Up organization
- Core values: empathy, kindness & respect
- No criticism & no controversial topics
- Mantra: “Prepare Students to Get on The Air”
- Broader goals: fun, socializing, friendships and bonds around shared goals & interests



KIDS PROGRAM

- **Developed during COVID**
- **Small classes of 3-5 kids**
 - One-on-one when needed
- **Ages 5 to 17**
- **U.S., Canada, and the U.K.**
- **Curriculum modified for kids**
- **Over 600 have learned CW**



WEEKLY FORUMS

➤ **Boat Anchors**

➤ **QRP**

➤ **Contesting**

➤ **Technology**

➤ **Antennas**

➤ **DXpeditions**

➤ **Historical Events**

➤ **Morserino Users**

➤ **Satellites**

➤ **POTA and SOTA**

➤ **Wild About Bugs**

➤ **Elmer 101**

➤ **Portable Ops**

➤ **Electronic Theory**

QUESTIONS?

LONG ISLAND CW CLUB



Teachers of Morse Code

longislandcwclub.org





Mike N4FFF and Becky N4BKY



Fun



Fun (in case we can't play the video)



Fun (in case we can't play the video)



Getting Started

learnmorsecode.org

- for anyone wanting to learn
- why
- learning
- getting licensed
- tools and games
- classes and clubs





First step to learn morse code

Our recommendation: Morse Mania

- ▣ Makes learning a game
- ▣ Learn by sound (set character speed to 30wpm+)
- ▣ Don't aim to get 100% right – just get 50-70% right
- ▣ Have fun!

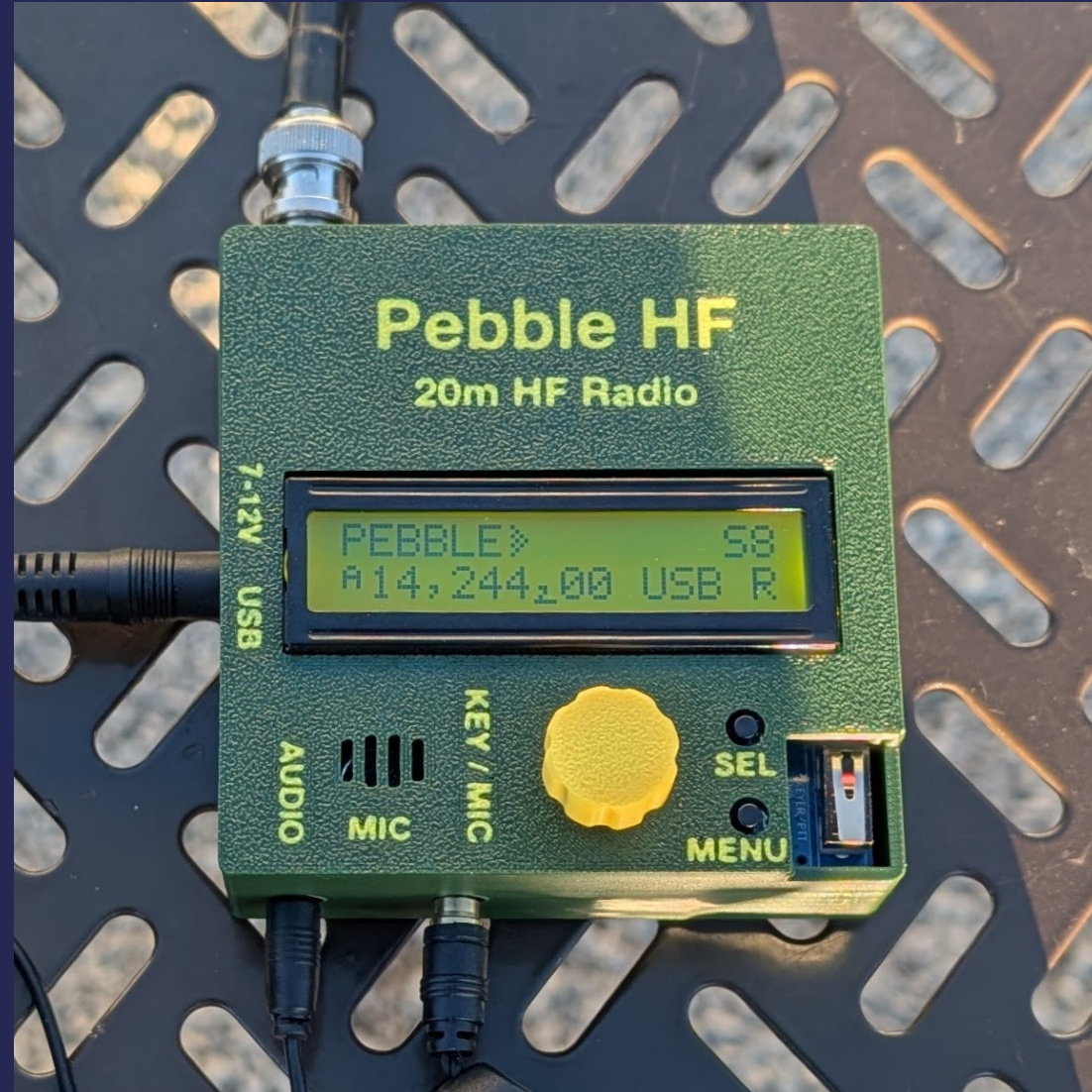
One more thing: Our Key

We made a key, the Duo Straight Key One.

shop.hamradioduo.com



pebblehf.com





Questions?

*Practice, patience, and
persistence are the keys to
mastering any language.*

— Sandrine Elliot