



# FT Contesting

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2024 HamExpo, Marlborough MA



## My Choice of Software WSJT-x Improved

Northeast  
**HamXposition**

Issued by the WSJT team- somewhat experimental in use

Tries out new features before they are adopted by WSJT-x

Available in 3 GUIs: WSJT-X's standard GUI, an alternative layout (AL), a widescreen version, and a dark screen version.

Works with all the normal add-ons (JTAlert, Gridtracker, N1MM+)

Available at [sourceforge.net/projects/wsjt-x-improved/](https://sourceforge.net/projects/wsjt-x-improved/)



## ONE BAND BECOMES 8!

Northeast  
**HamXposition**

### 20 Meters

- 14.074 FT8 Even
- 14.074 FT8 Odd
- 14.080 FT4 Even
- 14.080 FT4 Odd
- 14.090 FT8 Even
- 14.090 FT8 Odd
- 14.140 FT4 Even
- 14.140 FT4 Odd

Each segment has a unique set of stations! One must tune them all.

*mini-CTU*  
**CONTEST**  
**UNIVERSITY**





# Multiplier Needs

Settings

General Radio Audio Tx Macros Reporting Frequencies Colors Advanced Alerts Filters

Decode Highlighting

<input type="checkbox"/>	New Grid on Band [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Call on Band [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	My Call in message [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Continent [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Continent on Band [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New CQ Zone [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New CQ Zone on Band [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New ITU Zone [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New ITU Zone on Band [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New DXCC [f/g unset]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New DXCC on Band [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Grid [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Call [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	LoTW User [b/g unset]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CQ in message [f/g unset]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transmitted message [f/g unset]

Highlight by Mode  Highlight orange:

Only grid Fields sought

Include extra WAE entities  Highlight blue:

Highlight also messages with 73 or RR73

Logbook of the World User Validation

Users CSV file URL:  F

Age of last upload less than: 365 days

CTY File Download

CTY File Version: VER20231129

1. Select color code
2. Update CTY File
3. Erase ADIF file
4. Rescan ADIF file





## Multiplier Needs

Northeast  
**HamXposition**

Telnet URLs that feature FT Spots:

W9PA-5 DXC.W9PA.net:7374

N2WQ 52.14.178.50:7373

N2WQ is configurable using the VE7CC program. Much easier to use than the written out filter process of AR-Cluster

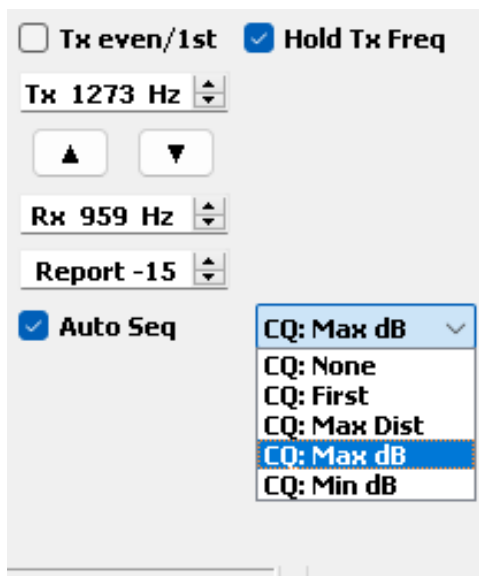
*mini-CTU*  
**CONTEST**  
**UNIVERSITY**





## Auto-Sequence Selection

- Five Choices- None (No Auto Sequence)  
First (First Station Decoded)  
Max Dist (derived from grids)  
Max dB (strongest signal)  
Min dB (weakest signal)



I generally use either Max Dist or Max dB depending on contest or conditions



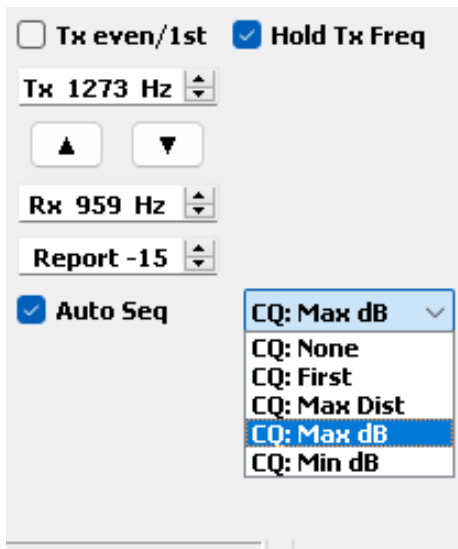
## To Hold Frequency or Not?

To Hold Frequency- Remember the order of decodes:

1. Your Rx Freq
2. Your xmit freq
3. From Low to High Audio frequencies

Doesn't always work, but sometimes its quickest to call a DX station on his audio frequency, because that's the first frequency decoded by WSJT. The

glitch, though, if you don't make the QSO and then start calling CQ, you will be calling on HIS frequency. As I say, sometimes it gets you the QSO, but other times it gets you embarrassed by violating unwritten rules.







## SPECIAL OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Special operating activity: Generation of FT4, FT8, and MSK144 messages

Fox

Hound

SuperFox mode

Key:

NA VHF

NCCC Sprint

ARRL Field Day

FD Exch:

EU VHF Contest

FT Roundup messages

FT RU Exch:

WW Digi Contest

ARRL Digi Contest

Contest name:

Q65 Pileup

CQ with individual contest name

Autofill 'ZZ00' for missing Grid

Enable Cloudlog Features

This is where you choose your contest. NA VHF seems to be a popular “catch all”, as it is just call and grid as the report.



# Useful Setup Checks

**Display**

<input type="checkbox"/> Start new period decodes at top	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blank line between decoding periods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Show blank line with time stamp
<input type="checkbox"/> Display distance in miles	<input type="checkbox"/> Highlight DX Call in message	Font...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tx messages to Rx frequency window	<input type="checkbox"/> Highlight DX Grid in message	Decoded Text Font...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Show DXCC, grid, and worked-before status	<input type="checkbox"/> Show principal prefix instead of country name	<input type="checkbox"/> Show DXCC for all messages

**Behavior**

<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor off at startup	<input type="checkbox"/> Enable VHF and submode features	<input type="checkbox"/> MSK144/Q65: Tx until 73 is received
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor returns to last used frequency	<input type="checkbox"/> Allow Tx frequency changes while transmitting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Turn progress bar red while transmitting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double-click on call sets Tx enable	<input type="checkbox"/> Single decode	<input type="checkbox"/> Auto-open/close Astronomical Data window
<input type="checkbox"/> Disable Tx after sending 73	<input type="checkbox"/> Decode after EME delay	<input type="checkbox"/> kHz entry without k (restart required)
<input type="checkbox"/> Calling CQ forces Call 1st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tune watchdog 90 seconds	Tx watchdog: 6 minutes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternate F1-F6 bindings	<input type="checkbox"/> CW ID after 73	Periodic CW ID Interval: 0

**Additional features**

<input type="checkbox"/> Map Grid locator to U.S. State	<input type="checkbox"/> Erase Band Activity window after band change	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Erase button behavior
<input type="checkbox"/> Show U.S. States in messages with grid	<input type="checkbox"/> Set Rx frequency to Tx frequency after Q50	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enable Wait features
<input type="checkbox"/> Clear DX Call after Q50	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear DX Grid after Q50	<input type="checkbox"/> Disable button coloring unless mandatory (restart required)
<input type="checkbox"/> Show distance in messages with grid	<input type="checkbox"/> Show azimuth in messages with grid	<input type="checkbox"/> Align DXCC / distance / azimuth 1 0

Double Click on call sets Tx Enable  
Allow transmit freq changes while transmitting  
Tx messages to Rx Freq Window



## Other Useful Tips

Highlight also messages with 73 or RR73

Allows you to “tailgate” and work a station after he’s done with a QSO but hasn’t called CQ yet.

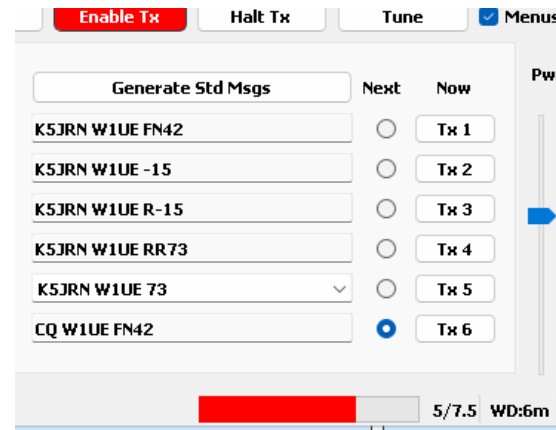
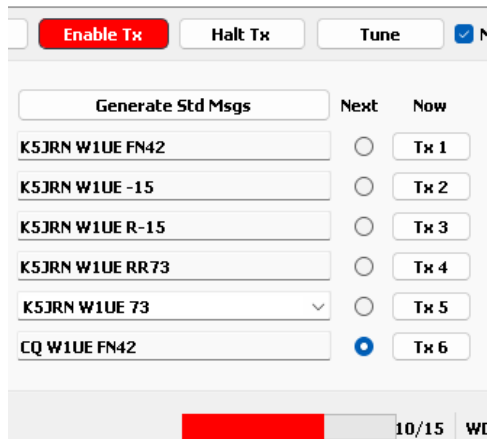
The screenshot shows the 'Decode Highlighting' settings in WSJT-X. The 'Advanced' tab is selected. The 'Decode Highlighting' section contains a list of 17 items, each with a checkbox and a color-coded background. The 'Highlight also messages with 73 or RR73' checkbox is checked. Below the list are two buttons: 'Reset Highlighting to WSJT-X default' and 'Reset Highlighting to wsjt-x\_improved de'. Further down, there are checkboxes for 'Highlight by Mode', 'Only grid Fields sought', 'Include extra WAE entities', and 'Highlight also messages with 73 or RR73' (checked). There are also input fields for 'Highlight orange:' and 'Highlight blue:'. The 'Logbook of the World User Validation' section shows 'Users CSV file URL: http://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-user-activity.csv' and 'Age of last upload less than: 365 days'. The 'CTY File Download' section shows 'CTY File Version: VER20231129'.



## Switching Messages Midstream

With FT8, you can change messages (put in your new one) after the 10 sec.  
With FT4, you can change messages (put in your new one) after the 5 sec.

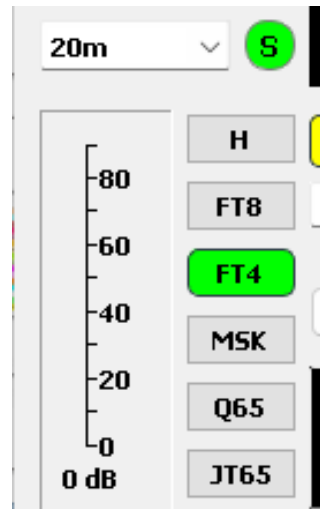
When sending a message, you have ~3 sec to change an FT8 message and about 1 sec to change an FT4 messages. I'm not fast enough to change FT4 messages!





## Toggling Contest/Non-Contest Mode

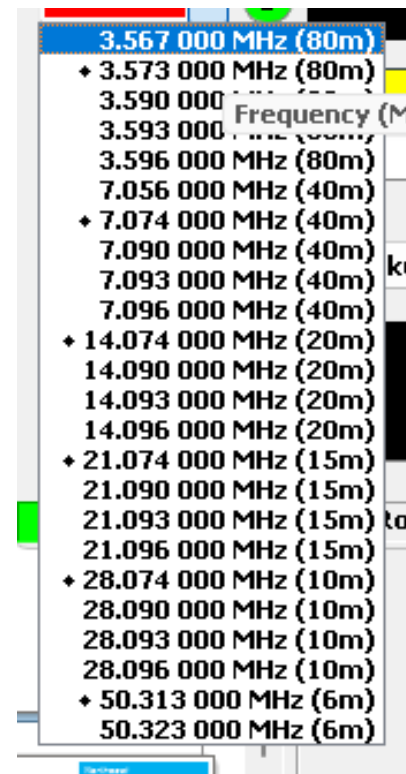
Right clicking the H key toggles one between contest and non-contest modes.  
Great for working non-contest ops!





# Frequencies

Add frequencies to the WSJT frequency files. Changing frequencies is now quicker and easier.





# Screen Display

```

----- 2024-08-21 - 11:35:45 UTC - 20m - FT8
113545 1 0.3 2215 ~ W3LAM N0SMX 73 5
113545 -18 0.5 2142 ~ CQ VK2LAW QF56 34
----- 2024-08-21 - 11:36:00 UTC - 20m - FT8
113600 -7 0.4 1922 ~ CQ W5RTM FM09 3
113600 -9 0.4 1166 ~ CQ KJ4GK EM83 4
113600 4 0.4 695 ~ KD2ZYW KB92M 73 5
113600 -13 0.5 1473 ~ CQ WB9JQX EN61 4
----- 2024-08-21 - 11:36:15 UTC - 20m - FT8
113615 -21 -1.3 1170 ~ M3PKR R2AL 73 16

```

160 80 60 40 30 20

CQ/73  BP Log QSO Stop Monitor

20m S **14.074 000** Tx 3650 Hz

H DX Call DX Grid

FT8 VK3CAL QF24 Rx 2309 Hz

FT4 Az: 271 16843 km Report -6

MSK Lookup Add Ignore  Auto Seq

```

----- 2024-08-21 - 11:34:15 UTC - 20m - FT8
113415 -14 0.5 2141 ~ CQ VK2LAW QF56 34
113415 -18 0.4 1049 ~ CQ PD2DK JO33 13
113415 -11 0.3 1952 ~ CQ NP3DM FK68 7
----- 2024-08-21 - 11:34:30 UTC - 20m - FT8
113430 -10 0.3 1166 ~ CQ KJ4GK EM83 4
113430 -3 0.3 1100 ~ CQ NA G4IIY IO85 12
113430 -18 0.3 814 ~ CQ N4QA EM97 3
113430 -17 0.4 2166 ~ CQ PD1BER JO22 13
113430 -15 0.3 1473 ~ CQ WB9JQX EN61 4
113430 -15 0.3 681 ~ CQ E74K JN95 15

```

160 80 60 40 30 20

CQ only  BP Log QSO Stop Monitor Era

20m S **14.074 000** Enter this QSO in log Tx 3650 Hz

H DX Call DX Grid

FT8 VK3CAL QF24 Rx 2309 Hz

FT4 Az: 271 16843 km Report -6

MSK Lookup Add Ignore  Auto Seq

```

113730 0 0.4 2028 ~ K3RH KB92M 73 5
113730 -3 0.4 2272 ~ VK2LAW AB9DR EL88 5
113730 -4 0.3 1952 ~ NP3DM K9JAJ 73 4
----- 2024-08-21 - 11:34:30 UTC - 20m - FT8
113730 -15 0.3 1655 ~ CQ NOUID EL97 5
113730 -19 0.4 1758 ~ CQ NZ0T EM36 5
113730 -15 0.3 775 ~ VK2LAW KE8NQL EN91 3
113730 -8 0.4 1922 ~ LA6RJA W5RTM 73 3
113730 -19 0.3 948 ~ GW4UZX DL9BDR R-17
113730 -15 0.4 680 ~ CQ E74K JN95 15

```

160 80 60 40 30 20

CQ only  BP Log QSO Stop Monitor Era

20m S **14.074 000** Tx 3650 Hz

H DX Call DX Grid

FT8 VK3CAL QF24 Rx 2309 Hz

FT4 Az: 271 16843 km Report -6

MSK Lookup Add Ignore  Auto Seq

What info do you want on the screen? I prefer the far left, where I get Cqs and 73/RR73 stations. Helps tailend.



## WSJT Macros

DX\$- one can use this in macro to send the other station's callsign. Below, DX\$ Grid asks the other station for their grid square.







# Upcoming FT Contests

WW Digi Aug 24-25

Every Friday 0100z- NS FT4 Sprint

RSGB FT4- Sep 16, Oct 28, Nov 18

Batavia (1<sup>st</sup> weekend August)

FT Roundup (Dec 7/24)

ARRL Intl Digi (June 7, 2025)