

“How to Become a 50 WPM CW Wizard”



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How Can I Become This... CW Wizard?

1. Spend years and accumulate thousands of hours operating in actual contests.
2. Use a Skimmer

OR...

3. Practice, using Morse Code trainers / contest simulators.
(Software in most cases)

Why Practice?

- Believe it or not, you **WILL** actually get better if you consistently practice.
- 10 – 30 minutes is *plenty* of time for a training session.
- The most important thing is to be **consistent**, don't practice for one week, quit, and then expect to be better a couple months later.

The Benefits of Using Software

- Experience a “contest” almost anywhere, anytime.
- Prepare for contests and improve Morse Code skills
- Maximize your in-contest result
- Avoid poor real-life conditions (The sunspot thing...)
- No super-station is required
- Compete with others (for fun)

Rufz (RufzXP)

- GREAT for callsign copy training.
- Great for QRQ training.
- Over 1,500 callsigns on the Rufz Toplist.
- Rufz is not really a contest simulator, but focuses on improving CW proficiency.

The screenshot shows the RufzXP software interface. The window title is "Attempt: 18 - Operator: TE5T". The interface includes a menu bar with "Tools", "Mode", and "Help".

Current attempt

Current score	Attempt errors	Main initial speed	Max speed	Min speed
23009	69	CPM: 257	CPM: 289	CPM: 236

Last callsign

Current speed	Max points	Gained points	Errors	Time needed
CPM: 265	843	86	2	2594 ms

Below the tables, there are two call sign boxes: "OJ4A" and "OJ4FH". A volume slider is on the right, set to 53. At the bottom, there are "Start", "Abort", and "Exit" buttons. The status bar at the bottom shows "Callsigns: 53550 [50268 - 3282]", "TopScore: 24475", "TopSpeed: 298 CPM", and "Attempts: 17".

Morse Runner

The screenshot shows the Morse Runner software interface. It features a menu bar (File, Run, Send, Settings, Help) and a main window with a log table, control panels, and a summary section.

UTC	Call	Recv	Sent	Pref	Chk
00:01:21	6Y9A	599 0002	599 0001	6Y9	
00:01:36	OM2AM	599 0001	599 0002	OM2	
00:02:44	GOKZS	599 0003	599 0003	G0	
00:03:00	K4HRN	599 0001	599 0004	K4	
00:03:52	K1XX	599 0006	599 0005	K1	RST
00:04:13	W4ALA	599 0006	599 0006	W4	
00:05:06	C4V	599 0002	599 0007	C4	
00:05:27	IK4EWX	599 0002	599 0008	IK4	
00:06:12	RW9UR	599 0011	599 0009	R09	
00:06:48	YL2BJ	599 0007	599 0010	YL2	
00:08:10	JASNLN	599 0010	599 0011	J&S	
00:08:43	MOCON	599 0016	599 0012	MO	
00:09:16	RG4CUY	599 0015	599 0013	KG4	

Station Settings:
Call: JA /1 QSK
CW Speed: 27 WPM
CW Pitch: 800 Hz
RX Bandwidth: 600 Hz
Mon. Level:

Band Conditions:
 QRM Flutter Activity
 QRM LID's 2
 QSB

Run: Run for 10 min.

Summary:
Call: N9IVO RST: 599 Nr.:
84 qpo/hr. **00:10:00**
Raw Verified
Pts 13 12
Mult 13 12
Score 169 144

- GREAT contest simulator.
- Provides realistic band conditions (QRM, QSB, even LIDS)
- Has HST, WPX, Single Calls, and Pile-up modes.
- Settings are adjustable and you can set it up as you like.

CW Freak

- Somewhat like Rufz, but with a few differences.
- Not a contest simulator, but a great starter to improve callsign copying.
- Toplist maintained by J10VWL. Also a *Monthly Competition!*



The screenshot shows the CW Freak software window. The main display area contains a table with the following data:

No.	True Call	Your Answer	WPM	pts.	Evaluation
1	SI9AM	SI9AM	25	2646	Great !!
2	SP3FAR	SP2FAR	27	945	so-so
3	9Y4ZC	9YC ooxooo	25	525	Bad...
4	OK1BMW	OK1BMW ooo	22	2352	Great !!
5	UT7LA	UT7LA	24	2671	Great !!

Below the table, there is a volume control slider, a large blue "Great!!" text, and a status bar showing "+2 WPM!" and "F8DFP". At the bottom right, there are "GO" and "Stop" buttons.

On the right side of the window, there is a "zlog.spc" log file and a "Mode Select" panel with radio buttons for "Practice A", "Practice B", "Trial (20QSOs)", and "Trial (50QSOs)". Below that is a "Score Board" panel displaying:

J10VWL
2 COMBO!!
9139 pts.

At the bottom right, there is a "Your Callsign" field containing "J10VWL".

Software to *Learn CW*

- <http://lcwo.net> – “Learn CW Online” by DJ1YFK.
 - Features the Koch method CW course, MP3 practice files, Speed practice, and more.
- <http://g4fon.net> – CW Trainer by G4FON.
 - Features a trainer based on the Koch method, and a contest trainer.

Recording Clips



← Morse Runner, 2.5 minutes of WPX mode (full contest simulation) at 45 WPM.



← Morse Runner, 5 minutes of HST mode at 30 WPM.

Final Points

- These programs will enhance your CW capabilities. They are a great way to prepare for a contest / DXpedition.
- Many good programs exist, most are freeware.
- Keep at it, DO NOT give up... Ever.
- Toplists and Highscores tables are a nice incentive to practice.

I haven't quite figured out the wizard
part yet...

But GL with the Morse Code training!