

Morse Mania

Version 4.1.0

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Getting Started

The Basics

Morse Mania is a morse code tutor for the Macintosh.

When you start Morse Mania, you will see the program window. Most features of the program, except for setting the characters to use in Koch mode, are controlled from this window.

At the top of your screen is the menu bar. From the Groups menu, you can select which groups of characters will be used for the various exercises (unless Koch mode is enabled).

From the edit menu, you can select Enter Registration Code to enter in your code, once you have bought your copy of Morse Mania.

In the main program window, there are two sliders which allow you to set the volume and pitch of the generated morse code. To the right is the control to set the speed of the morse code, in WPM.

Next, there are several buttons which allow you to select the exercise, these are described below:

Learn Characters:

In this exercise, random characters from the selected group(s) are sent at the chosen speed. The character is also displayed on the screen. To the right of this button is a field which allows you to adjust spacing (time delay) between characters.

Guess Characters:

In this exercise, random characters from the selected group(s) are sent at the chosen speed.

You must type the character sent. For abbreviations, type both letters, such as AS for character sent. If you correctly decode the character, it is briefly displayed, in black, and then the next character is sent. If you type the wrong character, you may continue to try again.

If you fail to decode a character in a certain amount of time, it is displayed in red for your reference, and then the next character is sent.

When you stop this exercise, your results will be displayed: the number correct, incorrect, and percentage correct.

Copy Groups:

In this exercise, random five figure groups of characters from the selected group(s) are sent at the chosen speed. When you select this mode, you will be asked how many groups you would like to have sent. The groups sent are displayed on the screen, so you can compare the text you copied to what was actually sent.

Alternately, you can specify the number of seconds to send.

If Koch mode is selected, then only those characters enabled in the Koch window will be sent, and the groups will be of random length, instead of five figures.

Copy Words:

This exercise is very similar to Copy Groups, except that instead of sending random 5 character groups, random words, from a list of over 2,000 words, are sent. This gives you a more realistic experience copying morse code than just random letters and numbers.

Send File:

This lets you specify a text file to be sent as morse code, to practice copying text of your choice.

Farnsworth Mode

Farnsworth is useful when first learning morse code, so you don't reach the "plateau" around 7 wpm, where you can't copy any faster, because you learned the individual dots and dashes that make up each character, rather than the overall sound. In Farnsworth mode, each character is sent at a high speed, but with a long pause between characters. Hence, you hear the character as it sounds, and don't try to learn the individual dots and dashes that make it up. The long pause gives you time to think about what you just heard, and identify the character, before the next one comes along.

Koch Mode

Koch mode is generally recognized as the quickest way to learn full speed CW. Koch himself was able to teach a group of students to copy CW at 20 wpm in just a little over 13 hours total time.

Here's a brief description of the Koch method: You start off by learning just two letters, at full speed (15 or 20 wpm). Then after achieving 90% or better success in copying them, you add another letter. You keep doing this, until you have mastered all of the characters.

As with Farnsworth, you hear the characters at full speed. The idea behind Koch mode is that you learn each character one at a time, and don't move on until you've fully mastered that character. You can learn at your own pace, and you get continuous immediate positive feedback as you learn each character. After you learn the first one or two characters, you realize that you indeed can copy CW at high speeds, and never hit the speed plateau that you otherwise would with traditional methods of learning CW.

It is important that you only select one new character to learn at a time, and that you don't move on to another new character until you're getting accurate copy of all of the current characters. Some characters will take longer to learn than others, that's normal.

To use Koch mode with Morse Mania, you'll first want to click the "Koch Settings..." button. You will see a window where you can select which characters you'd like to learn by checking the boxes. Be sure to close the window after you've made a change.

Groups Menu

Under the Groups menu, you can select which group(s) you would like to practice. The groups are arranged according to combinations of dots and dashes, and are as follows:

E I S H

T M O

A D G K

N R U W

B C F J

L P Q V

X Y Z

Numbers 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Punctuation . , ? : ; / (

Abbreviations AS AR BT SK ER (error)

You may also select all the groups, or deselect them all.

Typing Text

Morse Mania can send characters that you type.

Click the Type button, and click in the text display area in the bottom of the window. Any letter you type that has a valid morse equivalent will be sent at the currently selected speed.

Keying

You can also practice sending morse code, click the Key button. Use your mouse button as the key, and click it as you would press on the key. Position the cursor in the upper left portion of the window, where characters sent in the Learn and Guess characters modes appear, when doing this. While you have the key pressed, you'll hear a tone.

Morse Mania will try to decode what you send. You need to have the speed (WPM) set to about the rate you will be keying. Remember that computer decoding of morse code is rarely perfect, so don't be surprised if it doesn't copy what you send with 100% accuracy, as software decoding does not cope well with the variations in speed natural with hand keying.

Sending Text From A File

Morse Mania can send characters from a text file. This is a great way to send real words and sentences. You can even make up a complete QSO, and have it sent.

Click the Send File button. You may use any text file, created with TextEdit or another text editor or word processor. If you use a word processor, make sure you save the file as a plain text file, not in a special word processor format.

If you want to send any of the special prosigns, use the following substitutions:

- *a = AS
- *b = BT
- *e = Error
- *r = AR
- *s = SK

Characters will continue to be sent until either the entire file is transmitted, or you stop the transmission by clicking the Stop Exercise button.

Practice Copying a QSO

Morse Mania can also generate a random part of a QSO to copy, to assist in “real world” copying of CW. Click the Send QSO button, and a simulated QSO will be generated and sent.

International Morse Code

Morse Code Letters

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

Morse Code Digits

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

Morse Code Prosigns

AR	• — • — •	(End of message)
AS	• — • • •	(Stand by)
BT	— • • • —	(Pause)
SK	• • • — • —	(End of contact)
Error	• • • • • • • •	

Morse Code Punctuation

Period	• — • — • —
Comma	— — • • — —
?	• • — — • •
Colon	— — — • • •
Semicolon	— • — • — •
(— • — — •
/	— • • — •
)	— • — — • —
“	• — • • — •
Underline	• • — — • —
‘	• — — — — •
\$	• • • — • • —
+	• — • — •
-	— • • • • —
=	— • • • —
@	• — — • — •