

PSK 31 FAQ -- (Jim Yuen WH6GS 2/26/2004)

What is PSK 31?

PSK31 is a digital mode used on HF. It requires an HF transceiver, a PC with a sound card and a simple interface to connect the two. Communication is via keyboard and screen, much like RTTY.

What does PSK 31 stand for?

Phase Shift Keying at 31.25 baud. It uses such a small bandwidth that many QSOs can take place in a one kilohertz width.

What are other advantages?

PSK is extremely tolerant of conditions and can connect at minimal power, such as one watt. Typical power is 10-30 watts.

How much does it cost to operate in PSK?

Assuming you already have an HF transceiver and a PC with a sound card, the programs are free on the web, the interface can be built for a few dollars or from kits at \$30-60, or ready-made at \$80-100. Plans and schematics are freely available at ham sites on the web.

PSK-Meter - THE way to transmit without over-modulating

Because you cannot hear yourself, you're dependent on others for a RST report whether you're over-modulating and splattering the spectrum. PSK-Meter is a \$40 kit that AUTOMATICALLY monitors your output RF and adjusts your audio gain for proper modulation. Not a necessity, but absolutely recommended. See the February 2004 QST magazine article on page 66.

PSK31 web sites and resource pages

<http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/psk31.html> -- great schematics and tips

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/psk31.html> -- ARRL PSK page

<http://www.w5bbr.com/soundbd.html> -- more schematics

<http://psk31.com/index.htm> -- software list

<http://home.teleport.com/~nb6z/psk31.htm> fundamentals and setup

<http://www.qsl.net/kh6ty/digipan/digipan7.exe> -- DigiPan download

<http://www.ssiserver.com/info/pskmeter/index.html> -- PSK-Meter home page