

Apply power to CODE*STAR and select the type of code you wish to receive with the front panel mode switch. For example, mode M1 selects Morse code with strong filtering for use in heavy QRM situations.

Next carefully tune in the signal while observing the front panel "TUNE" LED and listening to the CODE*STAR speaker. *Tune the signal for maximum brightness on the TUNE LED and loudest tone on the speaker.* CODE*STAR has a very selective band-pass filter (center frequency 800 Hz) so some care and patience is required in tuning stations. After some practice, you will find it easy to tune stations. If the station drifts out of tune, you may have to re-adjust your receiver tuning occasionally. Use only a normal or lower volume setting to minimize noise pickup.

MORSE OPERATION. CODE*STAR has two mode positions for Morse code. Mode M1 has a range of 3 to 33 WPM and should be used for copy in heavy noise or QRM situations. It is initially set for 10 WPM and will auto-track speed changes within its range, usually within one or two characters.

Mode M2 has a wider speed range of 3 to 70 WPM and is ideal for high speed CW. Its initial speed is set for 18 WPM and it will normally auto-track speed changes in its range within a few characters.

When tuning CW stations allow a few characters for CODE*STAR to lock on. Do not expect perfect copy from CW stations. Many CW stations use abbreviations or special codes. It is important to realize that radio reception of Morse code is fraught with many problems due to sloppy sending, signal fading, noise pulses, and poor receiving conditions. CODE*STAR has the most advanced features to help reduce the effects of these problems and with some care and diligence you should be able to copy a large number of CW stations.

RTTY OPERATION. During RTTY operation the display will appear to flicker slightly. This is normal and due to the scanning of the microcomputer. CODE*STAR has four mode positions for radio-teletype which cover all the common Baudot speeds and 110 Baud ASCII. RTTY is usually transmitted as a frequency shift keyed (FSK) signal with separate "mark" and "space" frequencies. CODE*STAR is designed to demodulate only the "mark" frequency which is assumed to be 800 Hz. Because of this feature CODE*STAR can copy practically any frequency shift combination from narrow shift through wide shift.

Since the "mark" frequency may be transmitted as a high tone or low tone, you will have to tune your receiver through each of the tones until legible copy is obtained. If copy cannot be obtained on either tone, it may be that the incorrect mode is selected or that the signal is not RTTY.

Amateur radio operators generally use 60 WPM (B60) or 100 WPM (B100). Commercial stations often use 67 WPM (B67) or 100 WPM (B100).

Of considerable challenge is DXing of RTTY stations. The main problem is that you cannot tell the mode of the signal by listening to it. For the serious DXer, books are available which list the frequencies and modes of press and commercial stations. However, trial and error with CODE*STAR and your receiver can be more fun.