

New FT4 mode

News update from WSJT group!!

"Soon after the "FT8 Roundup" held on December 1-2, 2018, we started serious work on a faster, more contest-friendly digital mode that can compete with RTTY-contesting QSO rates while preserving many of the benefits of FT8. The result is FT4 -- a new digital mode specifically designed for radio contesting.

Over the past month a small group of volunteers have been conducting on-the-air tests of FT4. The early tests were very successful and helped us to make a number of important design decisions. We believe FT4 has considerable promise for its intended purpose.

We'll soon be ready for testing by a larger group. If you might be interested in participating and offering your considered feedback, please read the descriptive document "The FT4 Protocol for Digital Contesting"

We plan to post downloadable installation packages for WSJT-X 2.1.0-rc5 on April 29. The document linked above includes

- Instructions for installing WSJT-X 2.1.0-rc5 and FT4 configuration
- Operating instructions for FT4
- Basic description of the FT4 protocol, modulation, and waveform
- Detailed sensitivity measurements for FT4 under a wide variety of simulated propagation conditions
- Schedule for upcoming test sessions

Two days to go and we can try out FT4. Not clear if it will be on 7078kHz or 7090kHz, we will see. Big advantage is that it is not bound to an accurate clock and 15 sec intervals.