

HowTo: Sending FT8 Spots without Mobile Coverage using send_spot.exe

What is send_spot.exe?

send_spot.exe is a tool designed for operators conducting field activations (such as SOTA, DME, IOTA, etc.) from locations without mobile coverage or internet access.

It encodes your real callsign, frequency, mode, and activity into a special FT8 callsign string. This string is transmitted using FT8. While regular skimmers receive it, only the EA3CV-2 node is able to decode and transform it into an automatic DX spot on the cluster network. This functionality is only implemented in EA3CV-2.

How to use it on Windows

1. Open the CMD terminal:

Press Win + R, type cmd, and press Enter.

2. Navigate to the folder containing send_spot.exe, for example:

cd C:\Users\YourUser\Desktop

3. Run the program without arguments to see the help screen:

send_spot.exe

The screenshot shows a Windows Command Prompt window titled "Símbolo del sistema - cpan P". The command entered is "C:\Users\joaqu>send_spot.exe". The output displays the usage information and a table of frequency ranges, modes, and activities. It also includes notes about registration and a note section at the bottom.

```
C:\Users\joaqu>send_spot.exe
Usage: C:\Users\joaqu\send_spot.exe CALL FREQ MODE ACTIVITY

      Frequency (kHz)    Modes    Activities
      -----          -----
      1810 - 2000      CW       DME
      3500 - 3800      SSB      WCA
      5351 - 5366      FM       WIFF
      7000 - 7300      FT8      BOTA
      10100 - 10150     FT4      COTA
      14000 - 14350     PSK      IOTA
      18068 - 18168     RTTY     LOTA
      21000 - 21450     SSTV     POTA
      24890 - 24990
      28000 - 29700
      50000 - 52000

      Note:
      Para permitir el envío correcto de spots a la red de clusteres,
      debes estar registrado en el cluster:
      EA3CV-2
      dxcluster.cronux.net port 7300
      Para registrarte, envia un correo a: ea3cv@cronux.net

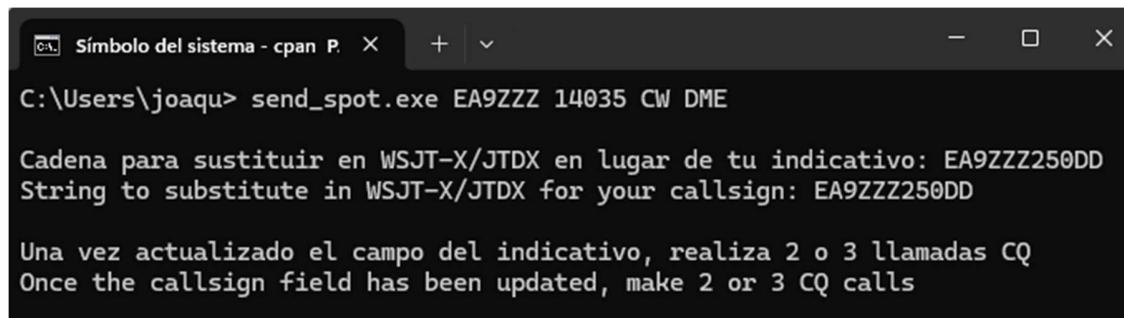
      Note:
      To allow proper spot forwarding to the cluster network,
      you must be registered on the cluster:
      EA3CV-2
      dxcluster.cronux.net port 7300
      To register, send an email to: ea3cv@cronux.net

      EA3CV version 1.1
```

It will show a table with valid modes, activities, and frequency bands.

4. Run the command with your real data:

```
send_spot.exe EA0ZZZ 14035 CW DME
```



```
C:\Users\joaqu> send_spot.exe EA9ZZZ 14035 CW DME
Cadena para sustituir en WSJT-X/JTDX en lugar de tu indicativo: EA9ZZZ250DD
String to substitute in WSJT-X/JTDX for your callsign: EA9ZZZ250DD

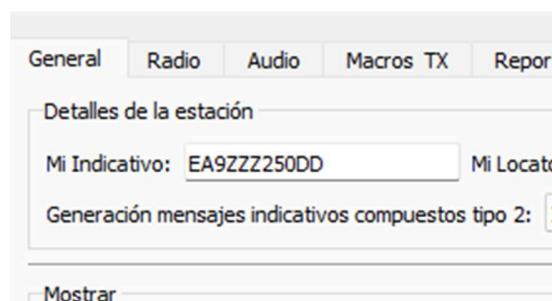
Una vez actualizado el campo del indicativo, realiza 2 o 3 llamadas CQ
Once the callsign field has been updated, make 2 or 3 CQ calls
```

5. The program will return a string like:

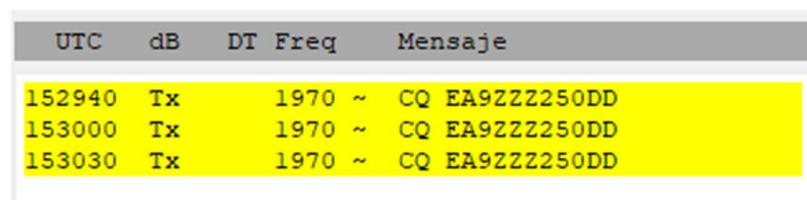
String to substitute in WSJT-X/JTDX for callsign: **EA9ZZZ250DD**

6. In your FT8 software (WSJT-X or JTDX):

- Go to Settings > General
- Replace your callsign with the generated one (e.g., **EA9ZZZ250DD**)



- Transmit 2 or 3 CQ calls



UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Mensaje
152940	Tx		1970	~ CQ EA9ZZZ250DD
153000	Tx		1970	~ CQ EA9ZZZ250DD
153030	Tx		1970	~ CQ EA9ZZZ250DD

7. Afterwards, restore your original callsign.

What happens after transmission?

1. Skimmers receive your FT8 signal with the encoded callsign.
2. The EA3CV-2 node intercepts and decodes the embedded data.
3. If you are a registered user, a real DX spot is automatically created with your original data: callsign, frequency, mode, and activity.

! This feature does not exist in other DXSpider nodes and is not interpreted by skimmers themselves.

Registration required on EA3CV-2

In order for your spot to be accepted, you must be registered on the EA3CV-2 node.

Why is it necessary?

The node needs to validate your callsign and associate it with the automatically generated spots. Without registration, no spot will be sent even if the transmission is received correctly.

How to register?

1. Send an email to ea3cv@cronux.net
2. Include the following in your message:
 - Your callsign
 - Your full name
 - A valid email address
 - (Optional) Your general location or type of activation (SOTA, DME...)
3. Wait for the sysop to confirm. Once approved, your callsign will be enabled on the node.

EA3CV-2 Node Details:

- Node name: EA3CV-2
- Address: dxcluster.cronux.net
- Port: 7300

You can connect via Telnet to test it:

`telnet dxcluster.cronux.net 7300`

Conclusion

`send_spot.exe` is a lightweight and effective tool that enables field operators to generate automatic DX spots on the cluster network from remote locations without internet access, using only FT8 and a simple temporary configuration.

This functionality is made possible exclusively by the decoding system implemented in the EA3CV-2 node.