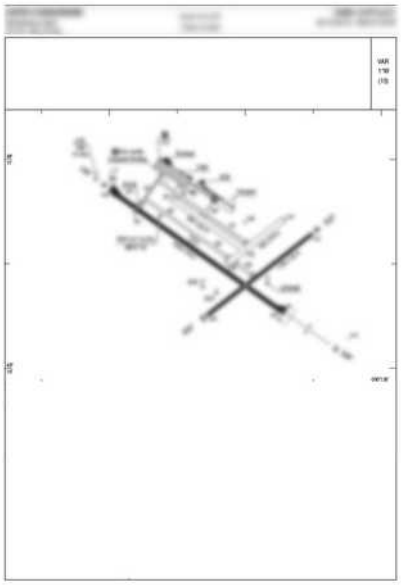
Converting Charts

The maps available on the internet are generally in PDF format and any drawing software allowing to import pdf may be suitable.

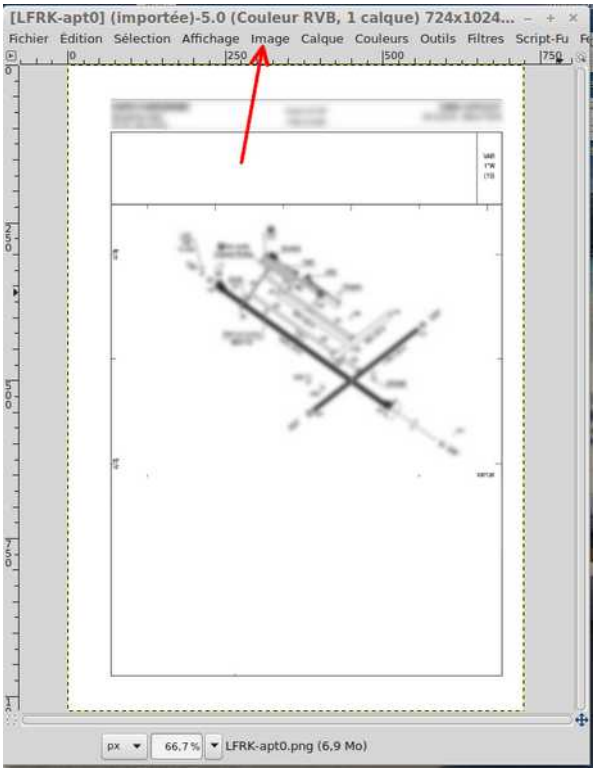
Example of formatting an aerodrome chart reduced to its simplest expression and blurred in this tutorial to avoid reproduction rights claims (?)



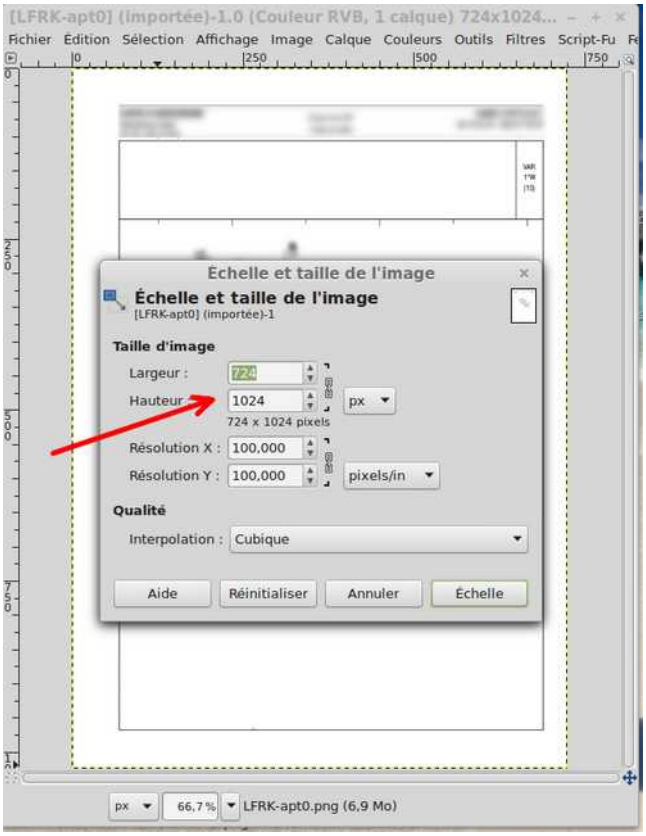
As my OS is Linux, I use the "Gimp" image editor for importing and processing these pdf.

1 - When the image is imported, it must be resized to the correct values. There is only one criterion: the height of the image, which must be 1024 pixels for good readability. The width will be dimensioned automatically according to the height.

2 - We therefore go to the menu "image" :



3 - Then in the "Image scale and size" submenu and we enter 1024 in the height box.



5 – The last step is to export the image:
File → **Export** as giving it the correct name, respecting the following rules:

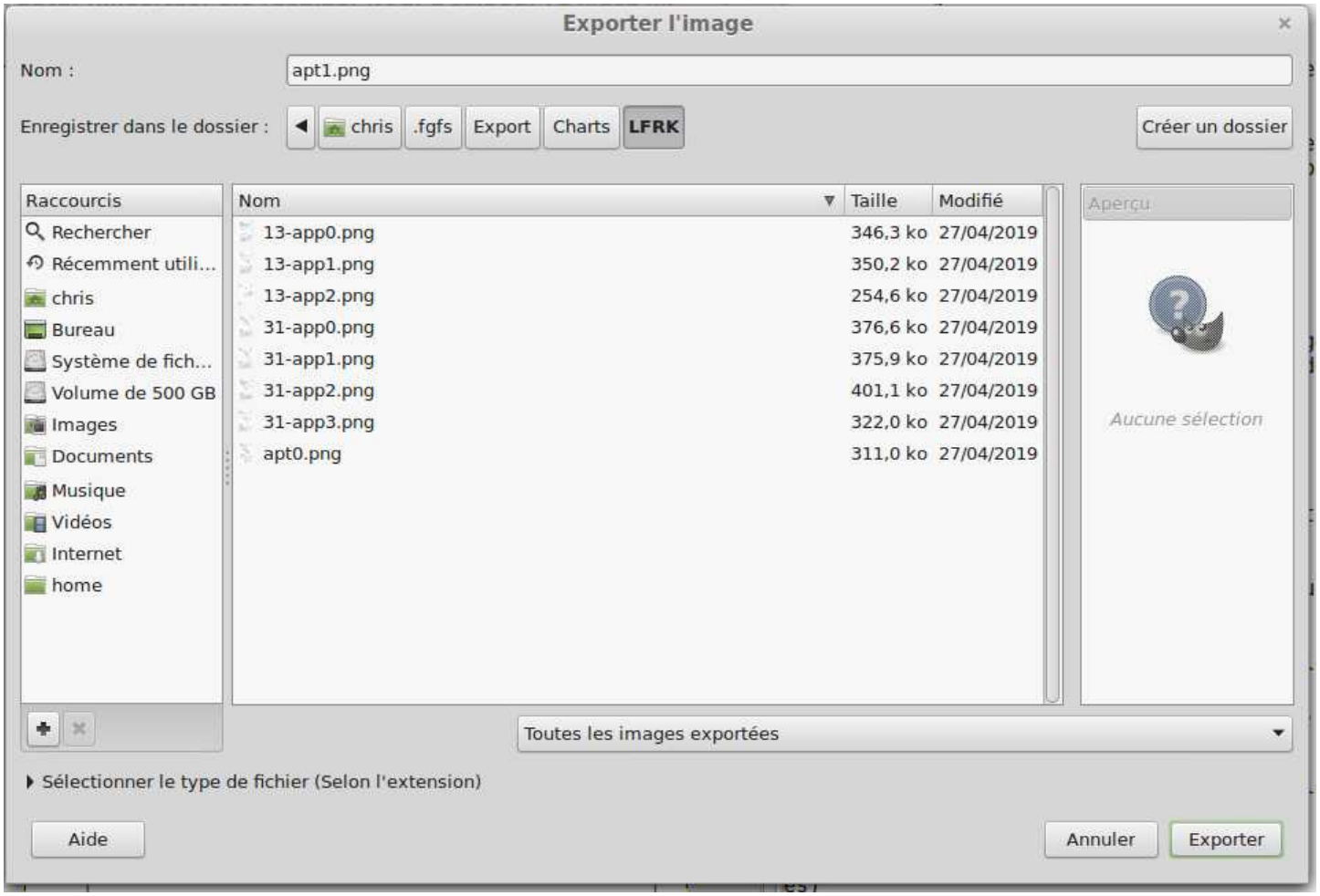
For each airport or aerodrome, create a directory in $FG_HOME / Export / Charts.
Example: For all charts related to LFPG, create the directory LFPG in upper case, which gives **…/Export/Charts/LFPG**

➔ Airport cards (apt), like the one we just discussed.
In the directory corresponding to the airport, save the card with the name ***apt0.png*** (in lowercase).
If there are several airport maps, call them ***apt1.png***, ***apt2.png***, ...

➔ Approach charts (app)
In the directory corresponding to the airport, save the chart with a name of:
1 - the runway number (in capitals if there is a letter, i.e. 27L)
2 - followed by a hyphen (without spaces)
4 - followed by app0 (lowercase)
5 – followed by .png
If there are several approach charts, call them app1.png, app2.png, ...
Which gives, for example, ***13-app0.png*** and ***27L-app1.png*** …

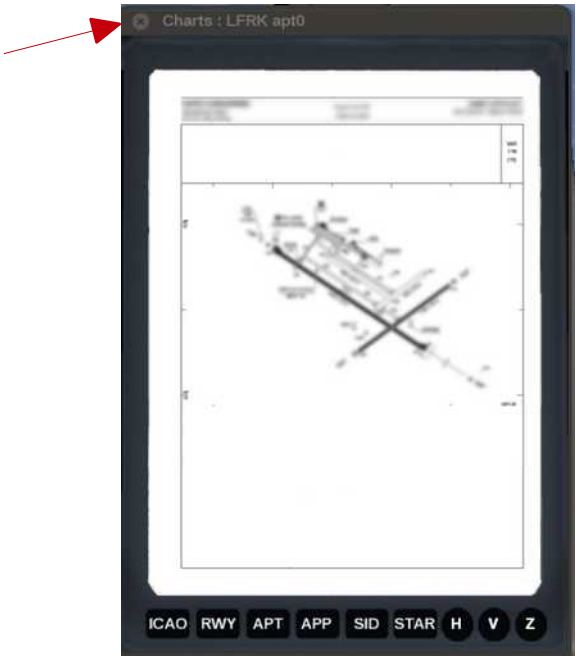
➔ Arrival / Departure charts (sid / star)
Same as for approach charts but using sid or star (in lowercase).
Which gives, for example, ***31-sid0.png*** or ***31-star2.png*** ...

The final result is:



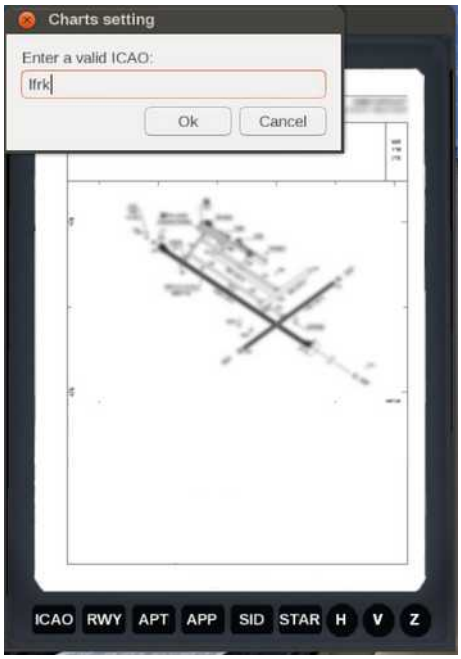
Usage

The map view screen is activated by using the **w** (lowercase) key on the keyboard. It is deactivated by the "X" button at the top left of the screen.

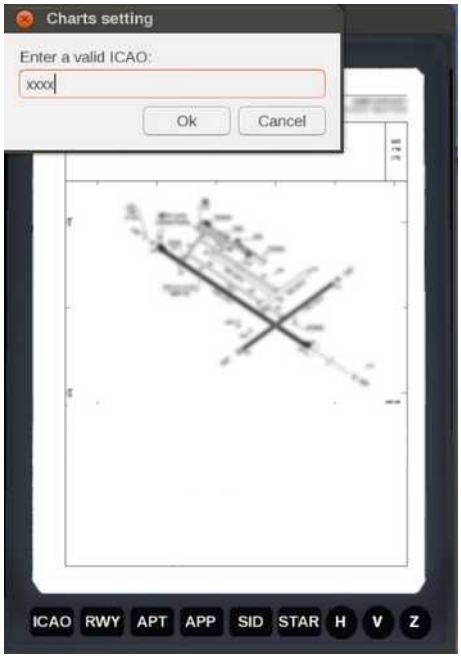


Button definitions **:**

ICAO: Clicking this button displays a text box allowing you to enter the code of the chosen airport, in lower case or in upper case.



If the airport does not exist, an error message is displayed.



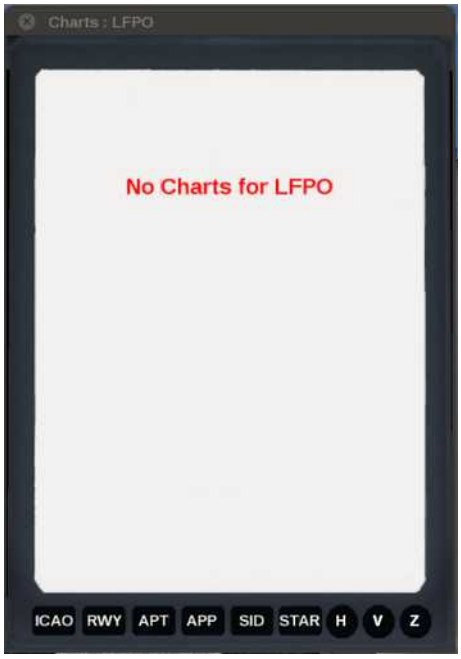
RWY: Displays the runways of the selected airport (LFPG).

A click on the button corresponding to the runway number displays the approach charts (APP), SIDs or STARs corresponding to the chosen runway.

Note: The runways are displayed even if no map is available for the airport.

APT: Displays the airport map(s) if they exist. These are the site maps including tracks, hangars etc.
If several maps are available, each press on the APT key scrolls through them.

If no map is available, a message is displayed:



APP: Displays the approach chart(s), if they exist. Successive presses on this key displays all the available cards.
If no runway has been selected before, an alert appears:

If no chart is available, a message is displayed:

SID – STAR: Same as the APP button.

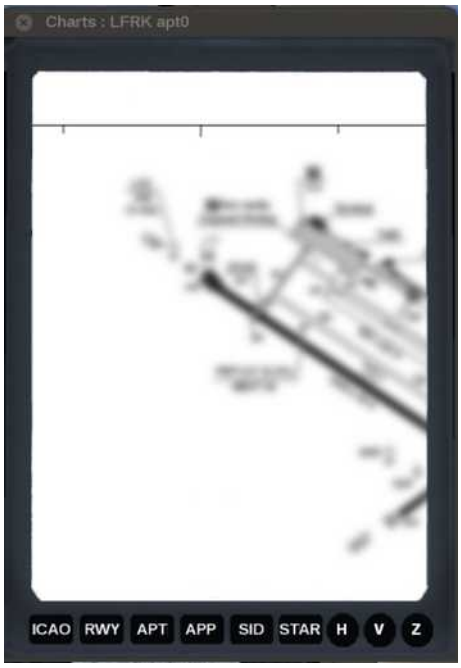
H: Managed with the mouse. With the mouse positioned on this button, the wheel allows you to move the map horizontally to the right or to the left of the central position.

A click on this button returns the map to the central position.

V: Managed with the mouse. With the mouse positioned on this button, the wheel allows you to move the map vertically above or below the central position.

A click on this button returns the map to the central position.

Z: Managed with the mouse. Allows you to zoom the map.



A click on this button returns the map to its central position and to its initial value (zoom = 1).

Click on the map: By positioning the mouse anywhere on the map and keeping the left mouse button pressed, the map moves following the mouse.

C. Le Moigne (clm76) – mai 2019.
English translation by Stefan Frank – June 2021