

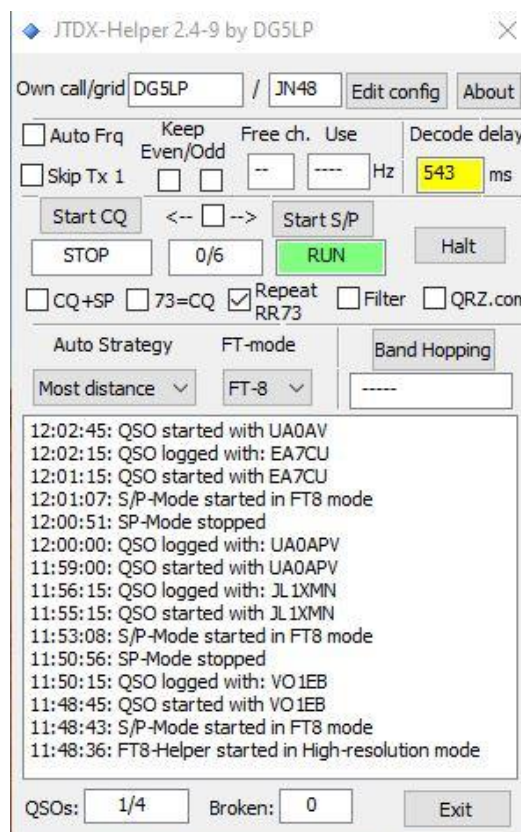
JTDX-Helper v2.4 Manual (for JTDX-2.2.156)

The JTDX-Helper program was developed as macro extension for the JTDX using the Quick-Macro program. The Helper interprets the received messages of JTDX and acts according to the own pre-programmed QSO strategy. The delivered EXE file contains the licence for Quick-Macros.

The FT8-Helper controls JTDX via virtual mouse and keyboard commands. When the JTDX-Helper is running, you should not use your computer for other applications, as the mouse focus will be caught by JTDX-Helper every 7.5 or 15 sec depending on the Mode FT4/FT8.

Main Features of v2.4:

- Automatic operation in both "CQ" and "S/P" mode.
- Automatic find of free frequency in CQ-mode
- New: CQ+SP mode. It calls CQ and if no station answers, the Helper calls CQ-calling stations (in split-mode).
- New: The JTDX-Helper can call stations sending closing RR73 and 73.
- Automatic changes between CQ and S/P mode with programmable intervals, depending on band activity.
- Various strategies in S/P-mode.
Call stations with:
 - Best Priority according the JTDX "Notification" settings (colours)
 - Best S/N
 - Only DX
 - Prefer-DX
 - Most distance
 - Prefer Wanted (according to wanted lists)
 - Only Wanted (according to wanted lists)
 - Exclude stations, prefixes and DXCC-entities according to exclude lists
- Band-Hopping
 - Programmable on daily basis
 - Two time ranges per day can be programmed
 - Operating band, mode, and strategy can be selected.
- Comfortable set-up of all parameter
- Easy installation
- JTDX can be started with the argument `-r` and rig-name.
- Opens the QRZ.com page of the QSO partner



The main window - human interface:

Own call / grid:

Your callsign and grid location, should be entered using the "Edit config" dialog.

Edit config:

Opens configuration dialog. The configuration is stored in the "config.txt" file in the installation folder. See more details below in text.

About:

Shows the current version and the copyright information (Freeware)

Auto Frq:

If "Auto-Frq" checked in "CQ"-mode, a free frequency will be calculated and the transmitting frequency will set to a free frequency between 500 and 2800 Hz. The transmitting frequencies of all received stations are logged in four subsequent 7,4/15 sec. cycles. From this data the JTDX-Helper calculates the most usable free channel. For transceiver with narrow IF-filter the upper frequency can be limited (see "Edit config" dialog below).

Please note that only valid FT8 or FT4 signals can be regarded when searching a free frequency. On this reason it can happen that the frequency is set to a non-FT8/FT4 signal, e.g. noise, RTTY, MFSK or any other signal.

If "Auto-Frq" is used, the "Wide-Graph" window must be set up as described in this manual below.

Skip Tx-1:

If selected In "S/P" mode, CQ-calling stations are called with reports instead of QRA-grids.

Keep Even/Odd:

If this checkbox selected, the Helper calls CQ only in the selected even/odd cycle. Otherwise it starts always at the next possible cycle. This setting is not active in S/P-mode.

Free channels / Use:

If "Auto-Frq" is selected in CQ-mode, it shows the number of free channels and the selected frequency. If no channels could be found, it shows "—" and "-----"

Decode Delay (Lag time):

In most cases JTDX cannot decode all messages within 15/7,5 sec. This Value shows, how long JTDX needs to decode the messages in the next Cycle. Set the decoding depth in WSJT-X so, that this value remains below 500ms. Values over 1000 msec can prevent remote stations to decode our messages.

Start CQ

In „CQ-mode“ JTDX-Helper calls CQs continuously. Successfully completed QSOs will be logged automatically. After completing or aborting a QSO due to timeout, it restarts calling CQ again. The Helper manages its own timeouts and repetition limits. If no answer, or not the expected answer is received after the third attempt, the QSO will be indicated as "broken". If no call received after the predefined number of CQ calls, JTDX-Helper goes into a 5 cycle "sleep" period. At the end of the sleep period it starts calling CQs again. The number of maximum allowed CQ calls can be defined in the "Edit config" dialog (see later in this document). Incoming calls are accepted during the sleep period.

The field between "START" and "STOP" shows the current and maximum number of CQs. The "sleep" period only activated if "Start-CQ" is activated without the "XCHG" option (see below).

Start S/P:

In „Search and Pounce“ mode the Helper selects the highest priority station from the stations calling CQ. The priority depends on the "Auto-Seq" strategy and the priority settings in the "Notification" page of the JTDX parameter settings. QSOs will be executed automatically and successful QSOs will be logged automatically. QSOs will be broken if the called station returns to another station or does not answer or answers with an unexpected message three times. Stations with broken QSOs are postponed for approx. 7 minutes to allow making QSOs with other stations. If no new stations are calling, a second call is accepted from stations the QSO was broken previously.

<-- X--> XCHG Mode:

When starting "CQ" or "S/P" with this feature checked, the selected mode ends after a predefined unsuccessful QSO attempts and changes to the other mode. Running QSOs will be completed before switching. This function can be selected for Band-Hopping. The maximum number of QSO attempts can be set up in the "Edit config" dialog (see below).

- „Max. broken QSOs in CQ-cycle“ for CQ-Mode
- „Max. broken QSOs in S/P cycle“ for S/P –Mode

The field between "START" and "STOP" shows the current- and maximum number of QSO-attempts.

FT-Mode:

Switches between FT-8 and FT-4. It controls the FT-mode of JTDX. If the FT-mode is changed in JTDX, it does not synchronise with the JTDX-Helper. On this reason, on each start of "CQ" or "S/P" the FT-mode consistency is checked. If the check fails, an error message is indicates the inconsistency and the selected mode does not start.

Halt (Stop):

Stops running "CQ", "S/P" or Band-Hopping activities. First pressing the "Halt" button initiates a "graceful" shutdown and waits for completing the running QSO. If an immediate stop is required, a second "Halt" stops immediately.

CQ+SP:

It is a new feature in 2.4. Is no answer is received to our CQ-call, the FT8-Helper calls CQ-calling stations according to the selected "Auto-Strategy". JTDX remains in split mode. After completing the QSO it goes back calling CQ.

73=CQ:

This new feature allows to call stations sending 73 or RR73 messages at the end of their QSOs. As it cannot be seen, whether the QRG is owned by that station or not, this feature is always activates "Split-Mode". Deactivate Split-Mode only if you are sure that the station is owner of the frequency. If "73=CQ" is activated in S/P-mode, the operator has to select a free transmission frequency. On this reason activating of "73=CQ" in "XCHG-Mode" and in "Band-Hopping" not possible. "73=CQ" can used together with CQ+SP" as it runs always in Split-Mode.

Repeat RR73:

If this feature selected, the FT8-Helper repeats RR73 at the end of the QSOs if no closing 73 received from the station.

Filter:

If selected, it activates the Filter feature of JTDX at the beginning of the QSOs and deactivates it a the end of the QSOs. The automatic filter function of JTDX must be switched off.

QRZ.com:

When checked, it opens the QRZ.com page of the station at the beginning of the QSOs. The URL is opened in the "default" browser of your Windows system.

Auto-Seq. Strategies:

- **Best-S/N:**

The highest priority messages are called first. The lowest priority is "New Call in Band", the highest priority is "New CQZ". Please note, that only selected items (colours) in the JTDX "Notification" dialog will be regarded. If more than one message is received with the same priority, the message with the better S/N ration will be called first.

- **DX-only:**

When selecting "DX-Only", only DX stations will be called. A stations are considered as "DX", if the calculated distance between the own grid, and the grid of the calling station increases the specified "Minimum DX-distance" in the "Edit config" dialog.

- **Prefer-DX:**

As with "DX-only", but if there are no DX-stations, non-dx stations are called according to the "Best-S/N" rules.

- **Most-distance:**

Stations with the largest distance (based on the distance of the grid locations) are called first. If the station does not send his QRA-grid, the JTDX-Helper calculates the estimated distance using a converting table in the dxcc_qra.txt file, delivered with the software. Please note, that in case of big countries the calculated distance can differ from the real value, as only the distance to the middle of the country is used (this is used for the "DX-Only" and "Prefer-DX settings too).

- **Prefer-wanted:**

Wanted calls and wanted DXCCs can be specified in the "Edit config" dialog. Stations matching to one of the specified entries in the wanted lists are called with higher priority.

New in ver. 2.4, that wanted continents can be also entered into the "Wanted-DXCC" field. The continents must be entered with a "*" before the continent identifier. Allowed items are: *EU, *AF, *NA, *SA, *AS and *OC. User specific continents can be created editing the dxcc_qra.txt file replacing the continent entry in the file, e.g. "ME" (middle east) instead of "AS". Using *ME in the wanted-DXCC list would deal with the changed countries as preferred.

- **Only-wanted:**

Selected in S/P mode, only stations are called matching to one of the specified entries in the wanted lists. Stations with priority "New DXCC" or higher will treaded always as "wanted".

For all Strategy settings:

- In case more than one station are matching to the selected criteria, the station with the best S/N value will be selected (exception: "Most-Distance).
- Stations matching to the "Excluded" stations are ignored in both "CQ" and "S/P" mode. In the "Edit config" dialog lists excluded callsigns or prefixes, DXCC-entities and continents can be specified. Valid continents are: *EU, *AF, *AS, *NA, *SA und *OC.
- Stations calling directional CQs are called only, if the CQ-extension is matching to one of the entries in the "My area" list in the "Edit config" dialog. All used standard and non-standard CQ-extension should be entered her. Example for USA: K NA, US, USA, NY etc..
- When in CQ-Mode or in case of unsolicited calls, the "Auto-Strategy" settings, Exclude- and Wanted lists are considered. This allows rare stations to select the wanted stations when many stations are calling. As calls and reports are not coloured, the priorities according to the "Notification" settings is no regarded.

The “Edit Config” Dialog

Configuration Dialog

My-Call My Grid My Locations

Macro Delay (if required) msec Min. DX distance Km

Max. audio frequency Minimum S/N level accepted

Max. CALL repeats Max. CQs sent before sleep

Max. repeats in QSO Max. broken QSOs in CQ cycle

Max repeats at QSO end Max. broken QSOs in S/P cycle

Oldest accepted call min. Logging level

Excluded DXCCs Excluded Calls

Wanted Grids

Wanted DXCCs

Wanted Calls

Band Hopping parameter

Bands:

Band	From	To	CQ/SP Mode	FT-Mode	Strategy
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="S/P"/>	<input type="text" value="FT8"/>	<input type="text" value="BEST-S/N"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>			

160:0-0600,2200-2400,S/P,FT8,BEST-S/N
 80:0-0600,1800-2400,XCHG,FT8,BEST-S/N
 40:0-0800,1600-2400,XCHG,FT8,PREFER-DX
 40:0-0800,1600-2400,S/P,FT4,PREFER-DX
 20:1000-2000,XCHG,FT8,PREFER-DX
 20:1000-2000,S/P,FT4,PREFER-DX
 15:1000-1700,S/P,FT8,DX-ONLY

- My-Call ; enter your call-sign
- My-Grid ; enter your four character QRA-grid
- MY-Area ; enter your country and continent separated by "space" e.g. K NA USA.
- Macro Delay ; for faster computers enter a value between 10 and 50.
- Min. DX distance ; specify the minimum DX distance
- Km/Mile ; select Km or Miles used for DX distance
- Max. audio freq. ; stations above the specified frequency are ignored.
- Min. S/N level ; stations with S/N value below this value are ignored
- Max. CALL repeats ; maximum repeats of calls with QRA-grid or report (QSO not yet started)
- Max. CQs before sleep ; the maximum number of CQ calls sent before going to “Sleep”
- Max. repeats in QSO ; maximum repeats of reports and R-reports (QSO not yet logged)
- Max. repeats at QSO-end ; maximum repeats of RR73 and 73 at QSO-end (QSO already logged)
- Max. broken QSOs in CQ ; maximum number of QSO attempts in CQ-Mode
- Max. broken QSOs in S/P ; maximum number of QSO attempts in S/P-Mode
- Oldest accepted call ; Stations calling us during a QSO are stored and after completing the QSO will be called back, if the call is not older than the specified value. Use 1-2 min.

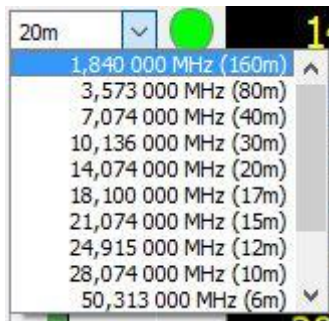
- Logging level ; Log is written into the file "\\log\\log-<YYMMDD.txt" in the installation directory;
 - Logging level: NONE ; No logging file written
 - Logging Level: LOG ; Only the content of the log-window of the JTDX-Helper is logged
 - Logging level: MSG ; Additionally, all received and transmitted messages are logged
 - Logging level: EXPERT ; Additionally, information for software debugging are logged
- Excluded DXCCs ; List of DXCCs and continents not to work, separated by "space".
- Excluded Calls ; List of callsigns or prefixes should not be worked.
- Wanted-Grids ; list of wanted grid locations separated by "space". Two or four characters are allowed
- Wanted DXCCs ; list of wanted DXCC items and continents separated by "space"
- Wanted Calls ; list of callsigns or prefixes you want call, separated by "space"

Band-Hopping:

Using with CAT controlled Transceivers "Band Hopping" allows automatic changing between bands, FT-Mode and QSO-Strategy according a programmable schedule.

When starting, a popup window shows the current schedule. Active bands at this time are marked by "+", the first executable band is indicated by "->". Confirming the schedule pressing "OK" starts the first executable program line. Depending on the program, CQ or S/P cycle is started. Similar to XCHG-mode, the cycle is stopped if the specified number of unsuccessful QSOs is reached. If the next program line is executable, i.e. one of the time ranges fits to the current time, the program is executed. If the time does not match, it tries the next line etc. If no executable program could be found, It goes to the "IDLE" state and remains as long as no executable program found. The status field below the "Band-Hopping" button shows the current program.

The "Band Hopping parameter list:



For the default frequency settings in JTDX, following entry is required in the „BANDS“ field: 160 80 40 30 20 17 15 12 10 6

If e.g.60m also required, enter 60 between 80 and 40

As only 10 entries are allowed, one of the bands must be removed.

The band order in the BAND-field must be the same as the order in the frequency selection menu of JTDX

The schedule list can be entered line by line. First, enter the required band and the time range(s), select the FT-Mode and the QSO-strategy. Pressing "Add line" enters the line into the schedule list. The time ranges must not overlap. If only one time range required, the second field should be left empty. Time values between 0000-2400 are accepted. (Example: 0000-0800 and 1600-2400)

Important Notes:

- Local time of the PC is excepted for the time ranges, not UTC !
- Lines in the schedule list can be edited, copied and deleted.
- Lines can be disabled inserting "#" at the beginning of the line.

QSOs:

- The first number is the number of QSOs of the running CQ, S/P or Band-Hopping session.
- The second number is the total number of QSOs from starting the FT8-Helper

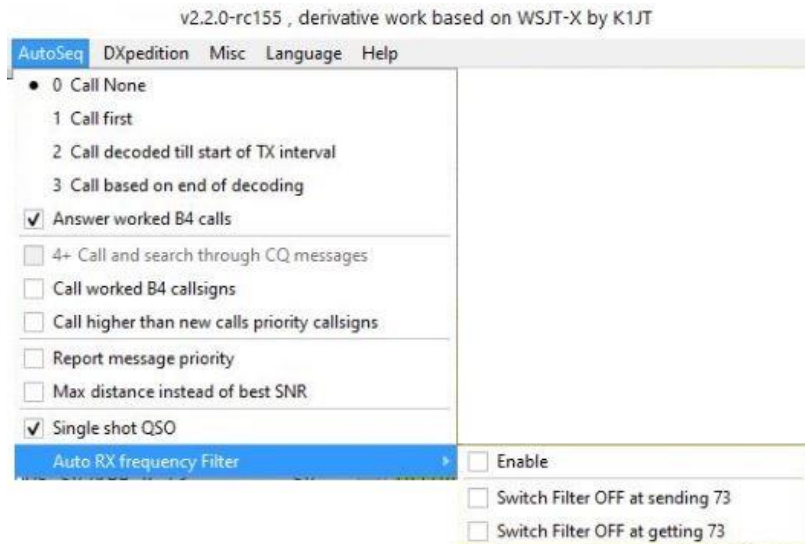
Broken (QSOs):

- Counts the started, but not logged QSOs.

Required setting in JTDX.

JTDX main window:

- Set the "Decode" parameter and the "CL"-value according to your computer performance. The "Decode" phase should be completed at the latest 0.5 sec after starting the next cycle. Obtain the "Decode delay" field and the colour of the "Decode" button in JTDX.
- Settings in "Auto-Seq" menu



„Call-None **must be** selected

„Answer worked B4 calls“ can be selected on demand.

All „Auto RX-Frequency Filter“ boxes **must be** deselected.

- Language **must be** "English"
- Auto-TX should be deselected.
- AutoSeq: "0", **must be** selected. The JTDX-Helper uses its own sequencing and timeout supervision.
- The "Menu" box **must be** checked the "Spt" box **must not** be checked.
- "Hound" mode **must not** be selected.
- Select folder "1" in the DX area, so that the messages TX-1 to TX-6 can be selected.
- "AnsB4" can be selected or not according your needs
- Deselect "SWL mode".
- Use "AGC" as for manual operation
- All other buttons are operated by the JTDX-Helper automatically
- "Filter" should not be selected, The JTDX-Helper controls it automatically.
- "Enable-Tx", "Halt-Tx" and "Log-Qso" will be managed by JTDX-Helper automatically.
- Do not change the windows geometry. Both the main JTDX session and Wide-Graph is set for the correct size at program start.
- Do not move the JTDX windows so that parts of the windows are outside of the desktop.
- The vertical tiling of the JTDX main window is set when starting the JTDX-Helper. Do not change it.
- The "Application Font" must be set to "MS Shell Dlg 2" with Standard Font style and Size = 8
- The "Decoded Font" must be set to "Courier New", Normal Font Style and Size = 10

Settings In "General":

The screenshot shows the 'Settings' dialog box with the 'General' tab selected. The 'Station Details' section contains fields for 'My Call: DG5LP', 'My Grid: JN48fx', and a dropdown for 'IARU Region: All'. Below these is a dropdown for 'Message generation for type 2 compound callsign holders: Full call in Tx3'. The 'Logbook filtering' section has checkboxes for 'Use current callsign' (checked) and 'Use current grid' (unchecked), and a text field for 'Filter logbook starting from date/time (YYYYMMDDHHMMSS)'. The 'Display' section includes checkboxes for 'Blank line between decoding periods' (checked), 'Use dark style' (unchecked), 'Display distance in miles' (unchecked), 'Hide partially transmitted messages' (checked), 'Tx messages to Rx frequency window' (checked), 'Show DXCC names' (checked), and 'Show prefix not name' (checked). There are also buttons for 'Application Font...' and 'Decoded Text Font...'. The 'Behavior' section has checkboxes for 'Monitor off at startup' (unchecked), 'Decode at t = 52 s' (unchecked), 'Allow Tx frequency changes while transmitting' (checked), 'Monitor returns to last used frequency' (unchecked), and 'CW ID after 73' (unchecked). On the right, there are spinners for 'Tx watchdog timer: 6 minutes', 'Tune timer: 30 seconds', and 'Periodic CW ID Interval: 0'.

In "Sequencing" folder:

The JTDX-Helper manages its own repetition counters. To be on the safe side, the counters in this menu should be set, but to a bit higher values than in the JTDX-Helper.

In "Reporting" folder, Logger settings:

"Enable automatic logging of QSO" **must be** selected. All other checkboxes must be deselected.

In "Notifications" folder:

- Do not use "Invers text/background colour" setting
- "Worked one" (green) must be selected
- At least one of the colours must be selected, typically "Check and highlight new calls"
- Depending on your needs other highlighting colours can be selected too.

Correct settings of the Wide-Graph window:

- Bins/Pixel = 3
- Start 500 Hz
- Do not change the size of the window.

This setting is mandatory only if the "Auto-Frq" feature should be used.

Installation and Initial Setup

Download the JTDX-Helper-exe-file from www.github.com/dg5lp, copy it into a directory of your selection. Copy the dxcc_qra.txt file into the installation directory.

Start JTDX, then the JTDX-Helper. At first start, the callsign and grid fields are empty. Open the "Edit config" dialog and fill the first three fields according your station. Enter your DXCC identifier and continent into the "My Locations" field, e.g. "K NA USA US" if you are located in the States, or "G EU" in UK. The "My

Location" setting used only to avoid calling stations e.g. CQ SA if your location is not in South America. Finally, do not forget pressing "OK" to store the changes. Now, JTDX-Helper is ready to use. Start "CQ" or "S/P" mode.

Bug reports and observations to:

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