

# THE ART OF ELECTRONIC KEYING:

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Letters, punctuation, and prosigns that a dual lever paddle and Iambic Mode B can help automate: **C K N R F L Q Y . / ! <AS> <SK> <KN> <AR> <BK>**

Some fun things to squeeze-send with Iambic Mode B and a dual lever paddle:  
KNOCK, CLOCK, FLOCK, LIKELY, BENS BEST BENT WIRE/5, BEST 73

## Thoughts about sending practice:

1. Always record your daily sending practice sessions (use a digital recorder, cellphone, or Audacity). Listen later (head copy) and critique your rhythm, tempo, and word spacing
2. Practice sending each letter of the alphabet individually every day, and words
3. Listen carefully to the 'sound shape' of each character as you send (combine ICR familiarity listening practice with sending practice)
4. Vary sending practice speeds; practicing at one speed all the time isn't helpful
5. Try sending much faster than you're able at least once every day; ignore errors

Have fun, enjoy practicing, become a great sender. Poor head copy is OK - you'll improve, and your QSO partner doesn't really care. Poor sending is a bigger problem - CW ops don't look forward to QSOs with someone they can't copy.

Record chatty/rambling head sending practice sessions daily, listen to them a few days later. Are you easy to copy? How is your tempo and word spacing? Listen carefully for consistent tempo and word spacing.

Deliberately 'send' each word space, don't assume they are there (*'key up' is as important as 'key down'*). It's easy to run words together, especially when a single-letter word precedes a longer word.

Use Audacity to record your sending practice sessions if you'd like to view **and** hear your tempo, rhythm, character spacing, and word spaces. (Audacity is easy to use and it's a free download)

## **Iambic (Mode B) Sending Tips with dual lever paddles:**

C R K N '.' and <AR> are simple 'squeeze' characters

<AS> is a quick thumb-first squeeze followed by a thumb-hold

<AR> is a slightly shorter squeeze than a period '.'

<SK> is a thumb-hold followed by a squeeze

<KN> can be thought of as a 'Y' with a dit at the end

<BK> is a 'B' followed by a squeeze

F and L are thumb-holds with a finger tap

Q and Y are finger-holds with a thumb tap

N is a quick squeeze and release, finger touches first

Practice Q-CODES: QRL QRN QSY QSO QRM (and QRL?)

Iambic Mode B automates Punctuation Characters: / . !

Think of a slash '/' as an 'F' with a dah in front of it

An exclamation point '!' <KW> is a finger-hold with two thumb taps

A period is a simple thumb-first squeeze

## QSO Oriented Practice:

CQ CQ CQ de (your callsign)

TNX FER FB QSO DE (your callsign) <SK> dit dit

VRV 73 CUL DE (your callsign) <SK> dit dit

BEST 73 CU AGN DE (your callsign) <SK> dit dit

UR RST 599/579/559, NAME IS, QTH IS

ITS BEEN A PLEASURE <BK> 73, CU SOON DE (your callsign) <SK> dit dit

A few Iambic Mode B practice words (with a dual lever paddle):

ALL	CAREFULLY	LITERARY
ANY	FOR	LUCKY
ABLY	FER	NY CITY, NY
ACRE	FLY	NICKEL
AFTER	FORK	ONLY
ANKLE	FULL	QUACK
BEFORE	FAIRLY	QUICKLY
BAFFLE	FORCE	RELY
CALL	FLOCK	REALLY
CELL	FORCEFULLY	REGULARLY
CAKE	HILLY	SHYLY
CLAY	KNOCK	SLYLY
CLACK	LIKE	TRUCK
CLERK	LAKE	TRICKY
CLICK	LARK	TRULY
CLOCK	LOCK	WELL
CLEARLY	LIKELY	WILL

Iambic Mode B Squeeze-sending Practice Sentences:

MY SHACK IS FULL OF REALLY FUN STUFF.

LOCK YOUR TRUCK CAREFULLY AND REGULARLY.

FORK FULLS OF CAKE WILL ROCK A JELLY BELLY.

ITS A FAIRLY DEEP WELL NEAR THE HILL.

THE RAKE NEARLY FELL OFF THE DOCK INTO THE LAKE.

ITS LIKELY TO BE FAIRLY CLOSE TO NY CITY, NY.

IF I ONLY HAD A DOLLAR FOR EVERY NICKEL...

THIS CLOCK REALLY BAFFLES ME, ITS TRICKY.

PICK UP A STICK AND SHYLY WHACK A SICK BRICK.

A 'ditty' practice sentence (for extra credit):

MISSISSIPPI SISSIES ARE SISSIER THAN TENNESSEE SISSIES (*good luck*)

Have fun while you're building muscle memory and a great CW 'fist'!

**73 de Tom W0FN**