

# 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>**

Good Iambic keying practice words to start with: KNOCK, CLOCK, FLOCK, LIKELY, BENS BEST BENT WIRE/5, BEST 73 (try for great rhythm on these last two)

1. Record your practice sessions ([Audacity](#) software, digital recorder, cellphone). Listen a few days or a week later and critique your rhythm, tempo, and word spacing.
2. Have fun, practice, improve. Poor head copy is OK - your ICR skills will improve and your QSO partner doesn't really care. Poor sending is a bigger issue - CW ops don't enjoy having QSOs with someone they can't copy.

**How to practice: (*find a code buddy too, schedule regular on-air QSOs*)**

- Turn recorder ON
- Close your eyes, keep them closed while sending
- Send at most accurate character speed, increase speed as you improve
- Send the entire alphabet, work on having a consistent tempo
- Send number scales: 0123456789098765432101234567890
- Select a [pangram](#), send it during your practice. Memorize a pangram and head send it during every sending practice session (select a new pangram every week to ten days).
- Pangram Examples (memorize, send with eyes closed):
  - THE FIVE BOXING WIZARDS JUMP QUICKLY
  - FIVE OR SIX BIG JET PLANES ZOOMED QUICKLY BY THE TOWER
  - THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG
  - HOW QUICKLY DAFT JUMPING ZEBRAS VEX
  - FARMER JACK REALIZED THAT BIG YELLOW QUILTS WERE EXPENSIVE
  - WHEN ZOMBIES ARRIVE, QUICKLY FAX JUDGE PAT
  - BROWN JARS PREVENTED THE MIXTURE FROM FREEZING TOO QUICKLY
- Head send anything you can think of for a minute
- Turn recorder OFF, save the recording (**File, Export** in Audacity)

Listen carefully to the unique sound of each character as you send – it will improve your character recognition skills. Vary your sending speeds; don't get in a rut. Try sending much faster than your most accurate speed occasionally (ignore errors during speed sending sessions).

Deliberately 'send' word spaces, don't assume they're there ('key up' is just as important as 'key down', especially after single letter words {A, I}).

### **Lambic Keying descriptions:**

C K N R '.' and <AR> are simple finger-first and thumb-first '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: finger-holds with a thumb tap

N is a quick squeeze and release, finger touches first

**Lambic keying Q-Codes:** QRL QRL? QRN QSY QSO QRM

**Lambic keying helps automate these Punctuation Characters:** / . !

Thinking of a slash '/' as an 'F' with a dah in front of it may help you send it well

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

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

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

RST 599/579/559 BK NAME IS (your name) BK QTH IS

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

**Iambic Keying practice words:**

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

**Iambic Keying 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.

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