

GLOSSARY

Amplifier—A device that increases the magnitude of a signal, usually with minimum affect on the signal's waveform.

Digital mode—A radio wave onto which information has been imposed with discrete states or levels, rather than with a continuously variable range. Morse code is a digital mode since all of the information it conveys is represented by only three units ("dits," "dahs," and spaces).

DXer—A ham who specializes in making long-distance contacts.

Ergonomics—Refers to the interfacing of an operator to a piece of equipment. An ergonomically well-designed piece of gear has controls that are sensibly and conveniently placed.

FCC—Federal Communications Commission. This is the government agency that regulates the allocation and use of radio frequency spectrum in the US.

Front-end—This refers to the amplification stage of a receiver that meets the incoming wave energy from the antenna system. Too much wave energy can cause the front-end to overload, causing wave distortion and blockage, and the production of unwanted wave products.

Hand-held—A transceiver that can be held and operated in the user's hand.

HF—High Frequency. This is a part of the radio frequency spectrum in which most worldwide amateur communications take place.

Home-brew—Home-built.

Rag-chewer—An amateur who enjoys conversing at length on the air.

Rig—A piece of amateur radio equipment, usually a transceiver.

Spectral purity— Refers to the spectral map of all the wave energy emitted in a transmission. The greater the proportion of total energy contained in the signal in the principal (fundamental) transmitted frequency, the greater the spectral purity.

Transceiver—A piece of radio equipment in which the receiver and transmitter are contained in the same chassis.