

Morse Mania

Version 4.0.1

April 22, 2010

Introduction

Morse Mania is a morse code tutor for the Macintosh.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for improvement, or any bugs to report, please don't hesitate to send them to us info@blackcatsystems.com.

If you find Morse Mania useful, please purchase (register) your copy, and help support the development of ham radio software for the Macintosh.

Registration is also your way of "voting" for software. The resources (time) we spend on a particular program are proportional to the number of orders we receive. So, quite simply, the more people who purchase a particular program, the more time we're going to spend working on and improving that program.

Requirements:

Mac OS X 10.5 or later

Please see the next chapter of this document for complete instructions on using Morse Mania.

Getting Started

The Basics

When you start Morse Mania, you will see the program window. Most features of the program, except for setting the characters to use in Koch mode, are controlled from this window.

At the top of your screen is the menu bar. From the Groups menu, you can select which groups of characters will be used for the various exercises (unless Koch mode is enabled).

From the edit menu, you can select Enter Registration Code to enter in your code, once you have bought your copy of Morse Mania.

In the main program window, there are two sliders which allow you to set the volume and pitch of the generated morse code. To the right is the control to set the speed of the morse code, in WPM.

Next, there are several buttons which allow you to select the exercise, these are described below:

Learn Characters:

In this exercise, random characters from the selected group(s) are sent at the chosen speed. The character is also displayed on the screen. To the right of this button is a field which allows you to adjust spacing (time delay) between characters.

Guess Characters:

In this exercise, random characters from the selected group(s) are sent at the chosen speed.

You must type the character sent. For abbreviations, type both letters, such as AS for character sent. If you correctly decode the character, it is briefly displayed, in black, and then the next character is sent. If you type the wrong character, you may continue to try again.

If you fail to decode a character in a certain amount of time, it is displayed in

red for your reference, and then the next character is sent.

When you stop this exercise, your results will be displayed: the number correct, incorrect, and percentage correct.

Copy Groups:

In this exercise, random five figure groups of characters from the selected group(s) are sent at the chosen speed. When you select this mode, you will be asked how many groups you would like to have sent. The groups sent are displayed on the screen, so you can compare the text you copied to what was actually sent.

Alternately, you can specify the number of seconds to send.

If Koch mode is selected, then only those characters enabled in the Koch window will be sent, and the groups will be of random length, instead of five figures.

Copy Words:

This exercise is very similar to Copy Groups, except that instead of sending random 5 character groups, random words, from a list of over 2,000 words, are sent. This gives you a more realistic experience copying morse code than just random letters and numbers.

Send File:

This lets you specify a text file to be sent as morse code, to practice copying text of your choice.

Farnsworth Mode

Farnsworth is useful when first learning morse code, so you don't reach the "plateau" around 7 wpm, where you can't copy any faster, because you learned the individual dots and dashes that make up each character, rather than the overall sound. In Farnsworth mode, each character is sent at a high speed, but with a long pause between characters. Hence, you hear the

character as it sounds, and don't try to learn the individual dots and dashes that make it up. The long pause gives you time to think about what you just heard, and identify the character, before the next one comes along.

Koch Mode

Koch mode is generally recognized as the quickest way to learn full speed CW. Koch himself was able to teach a group of students to copy CW at 20 wpm in just a little over 13 hours total time.

Here's a brief description of the Koch method: You start off by learning just two letters, at full speed (15 or 20 wpm). Then after achieving 90% or better success in copying them, you add another letter. You keep doing this, until you have mastered all of the characters.

As with Farnsworth, you hear the characters at full speed. The idea behind Koch mode is that you learn each character one at a time, and don't move on until you've fully mastered that character. You can learn at your own pace, and you get continuous immediate positive feedback as you learn each character. After you learn the first one or two characters, you realize that you indeed can copy CW at high speeds, and never hit the speed plateau that you otherwise would with traditional methods of learning CW.

It is important that you only select one new character to learn at a time, and that you don't move on to another new character until you're getting accurate copy of all of the current characters. Some characters will take longer to learn than others, that's normal.

To use Koch mode with Morse Mania, you'll first want to click the "Koch Settings..." button. You will see a window where you can select which characters you'd like to learn by checking the boxes. Be sure to close the window after you've made a change.

Groups Menu

Under the Groups menu, you can select which group(s) you would like to practice. The groups are arranged according to combinations of dots and dashes, and are as follows:

E I S H

T M O

A D G K

N R U W

B C F J

L P Q V

X Y Z

Numbers 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Punctuation . , ? : ; / (

Abbreviations AS AR BT SK ER (error)

You may also select all the groups, or deselect them all.

Typing Text

Morse Mania can send characters that you type.

Click the Type button, and click in the text display area in the bottom of the window. Any letter you type that has a valid morse equivalent will be sent at the currently selected speed.

Keying

You can also practice sending morse code, click the Key button. Use your mouse button as the key, and click it as you would press on the key. Position the cursor in the upper left portion of the window, where characters sent in the Learn and Guess characters modes appear, when doing this. While you have the key pressed, you'll hear a tone.

Morse Mania will try to decode what you send. You need to have the speed (WPM) set to about the rate you will be keying. Remember that computer decoding of morse code is rarely perfect, so don't be surprised if it doesn't copy what you send with 100% accuracy, as software decoding does not cope well with the variations in speed natural with hand keying.

Sending Text From A File

Morse Mania can send characters from a text file. This is a great way to

send real words and sentences. You can even make up a complete QSO, and have it sent.

Click the Send File button. You may use any text file, created with TextEdit or another text editor or word processor. If you use a word processor, make sure you save the file as a plain text file, not in a special word processor format.

If you want to send any of the special prosigns, use the following substitutions:

- *a = AS
- *b = BT
- *e = Error
- *r = AR
- *s = SK

Characters will continue to be sent until either the entire file is transmitted, or you stop the transmission by clicking the Stop Exercise button.

Practice Copying a QSO

Morse Mania can also generate a random part of a QSO to copy, to assist in “real world” copying of CW. Click the Send QSO button, and a simulated QSO will be generated and sent.

Registering (Purchasing) Morse Mania

Morse Mania is distributed as shareware. If after trying Morse Mania you decide you wish to continue using it, you must purchase (register) a copy. The registration fee is only \$19.99, allowing the use on a single computer. If you wish to run Morse Mania on multiple computers, you must obtain a license for each system, or the appropriate site license.

Site licenses are also available, allowing copies to be run on multiple computers at a single location (for example, a school or university, or office). Please contact Black Cat Systems for pricing and details about site licensing.

By registering your copy of Morse Mania, you'll help support our efforts to develop new versions with additional information. When you register, you'll be entitled to use all new releases and updates to Morse Mania released over the next year, free of charge.

When you register and receive your registration code, select **Enter Registration...** from the **Edit** menu, and enter the code. If you register and don't get your registration code within a week, please send us an email at info@blackcatsystems.com.

Thanks again for giving Morse Mania a try.

Black Cat Systems
4708 Trail Court
Westminster, MD 21158

email: info@blackcatsystems.com

Web: <http://www.blackcatsystems.com/software/morsemania.html>

Purchasing by Check or Money Order Form

To order by check, please fill out and mail the following form, along with your payment. You can pay with a wide variety of cash from different countries but at present if you pay via check, it must be a check or money order drawn in US Dollars. While there is the risk of loss in the mail, currency is also OK, including foreign currency.

Please make sure you include your email address with your payment. That way we can send the registration code to you. If you do not send us a valid email address, we have no way to send you the code.

I would like to order _____ copies of Morse Mania at \$19.99 US each.

I would like to order _____ site licenses for Morse Mania at \$200 US each.

If you'd like a copy of Morse Mania (as well as demos of all of our other programs) on CDROM, please order one:

I would like to order _____ Black Cat Systems CDROMS at \$10 US each.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

ZIP/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Email Address: _____

Macintosh Model: _____ System Version: _____

Enclosed, please find my check / money order / cash in the amount of \$_____ Maryland Residents please add 6% sales tax.

Mail this form, along with payment, to:

Black Cat Systems
4708 Trail Court
Westminster, MD 21158
USA

Purchasing Online

To purchase online with a credit card, go to the following URL:

<http://www.blackcatsystems.com/register/morsemania.html>

You will be sent to our order page at Kagi. Kagi handles our credit card payment processing.

Please make sure you include your email address when you register online. That way we can send the registration code to you. If you do not send us a valid email address, we have no way to send you the code.

International Morse Code

Morse Code Letters

A	• —
B	— • • •
C	— • — •
D	— • •
E	•
F	• • — •
G	— — •
H	• • • •
I	• •
J	• — — —
K	— • —
L	• — • •
M	— —
N	— •
O	— — —
P	• — — •
Q	— — • —
R	• — •
S	• • •
T	—
U	• • —
V	• • • —
W	• — —
X	— • • —
Y	— • — —
Z	— — • •

Morse Code Digits

0	— — — — —
1	• — — — —
2	• • — — —
3	• • • — —
4	• • • • —
5	• • • • •
6	— • • • •
7	— — • • •
8	— — — • •
9	— — — — •

Morse Code Prosigns

AR	• — • — •	(End of message)
AS	• — • • •	(Stand by)
BT	— • • • —	(Pause)
SK	• • • — • —	(End of contact)
Error	• • • • • • • •	

Morse Code Punctuation

Period	• — • — • —
Comma	— — • • — —
?	• • — — • •
Colon	— — — • • •
Semicolon	— • — • — •
(— • — — •
/	— • • — •
)	— • — — • —
“	• — • • — •
Underline	• • — — • —
‘	• — — — — •
\$	• • • — • • —
+	• — • — •
-	— • • • • —
=	— • • • —
@	• — — • — •

Revision History

- 4.0.1 Fixed a bug that caused distorted audio on G4/G5 Macs.
- 4.0.0 First release of Cocoa / Universal Binary version.
- 3.5.1 Fixed a bug in the Copy groups exercise that could cause some characters to be skipped.
- 3.5.0 Improved morse code audio quality in Farnsworth mode.
- 3.4.0 Added an option to send groups for a specified time period.
Total number of characters sent in the Send Groups exercise is displayed.
Koch mode now works in Send Letters and Learn Letters exercises.
- 3.3.0 Fixed a bug with the Send File exercise not able to open all text files.
Selecting Farnsworth mode now deselects Koch mode.
Bug fix - running the guess a letter exercise for the second time would repeat the previously sent letter.
Added a delay in the Copy Groups exercise before it actually starts sending.
- 3.2.0 Fixed a bug with the Send File and Send QSO exercises.
Reduced the amount of CPU time used.
- 3.1.0 Fixed a bug with the send words exercise that could cause a crash.
- 3.0.1 Fixed a bug with selecting the abbreviations group.
Fixed a bug with all of the abbreviations not being sent.
Dot/Dash representation of characters displayed in Learn Characters exercise is now optional.
- 3.0.0 Can use the mouse button to practice sending morse in the Type Letters exercise.
Can pause/resume playback of files and practice QSOs.
Dot/Dash representation of characters displayed in Learn Characters exercise.
Fixed a bug with the display of the Koch window.
- 2.8.0 Added Type Letters window.
Fixed a bug that could cause a crash in the Copy Words exercise.
- 2.7.0 Added Copy Words exercise, sends random words from list of 2000.
Corrected RST in Send QSO mode.
Added menu shortcuts for exercises.
Added detailed explanation of Koch mode.
Can copy text from Group Copy Exercise window.
- 2.6.0 Added @ symbol
Divided punctuation into two groups
- 2.5.0 Added the ability to specify the frequency (tone) of the morse code audio.

- Added Applescript support.
Preferences menu tem now dimmed in OSX.
Fixed a bug where the proper space (silence) was not sent after the letter O.
- 2.4.1 Fixed a bug where Koch and Farnsworth, when selected, would not have a checkmark next to them in the Speed menu.
- 2.4.0 Resizable Copy Groups window.
Fixed Koch mode bug.
Cmd-W closes Copy groups window.
Added 35 and 40 wpm.
- 2.3.5 Fixed a bug with Koch Mode.
- 2.3.3 Fixed a bug that could cause a beep sound to be made in an exercise.
- 2.3.2 Fixed a bug that could cause a crash in Send Groups mode.
- 2.3.1 Separate menu item to bring up Koch window
- 2.3.0 Added Koch mode.
- 2.2.0 Added generation of random QSOs to copy.
- 2.1.2 Fixed a bug that could cause a lockup when playing from a text file.
- 2.1.1 Small bug fixes
- 2.1.0 Fixed several bugs dealing with guessing letter mode
Documentation within the program
- 2.0.1 Fixed a bug that would not allow Farnsworth to be selected
- 2.0.0 Initial Carbon release for Mac OSX
- 1.9.6 Now possible to send text files containing lower case letters. To send prosigns, insert a @ before the lowercase letter used to signify the prosign (as explained in the documentation)
- 1.9.5 Added several additional punctuation characters.
Settings (speed, groups, volume, etc) now stored for recall next session.
- 1.9.1 Fixed bug that caused a slight pause after the first dot at higher speeds.
- 1.9.0 Eliminated clicking sound on some Macs.

- 1.8.0 Added ability to change the volume.
- 1.7.0 Added ability to send prosigns from a text file.
- 1.6.0 Added Farnsworth mode.
- 1.5.1 Fixed a bug where abbreviations were not completely sent.
- 1.5.0 Added ability to send text from a file for practice.
- 1.1.0 Added Copy Groups mode to send five figure groups for practice.
- 0.2.0 Changed the way sounds are produced, due to problems on some
G3 systems.
Fixed a bug where de-selecting all groups would cause the program to hang.
- 0.1.0 Initial Release

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