



HTC Morse Code Certificate and awards

Goal: Fluency in telegraphy

You generally experience the joy of Morse Code only when you can conduct a lively, fluent QSO! The abilities of an advanced telegrapher, however, can be achieved only through targeted, intensive training. This applies to both beginners and those who are picking it up again. The HTC certificate and various subsequent awards are intended to promote this goal. Remember, practice makes perfect! Without having a goal, however, you won't achieve anything!

Preparation and procedure

Depending on the student's inclination and the opportunities available to that person, Morse Code can be learned in a variety of ways. The optimal situation is by attending training courses, which are offered by various regional ham radio clubs from time to time. HTC-recognized courses can be attended only in Switzerland, and therefore the Basic level (60 cpm / 12 wpm, which qualifies you for a framed certificate) can be passed only in Switzerland as stated in the German version of the rules.

As an alternative, the HTC recommends self-study.

www.hb9htc.ch → Learn and maintain Morse Code

Certificate and subsequent awards

The HTC Morse Code exam is set up in levels. Outside Switzerland only the advanced Awards can be earned. An Advanced level is recognized with a lapel pin.

The Advanced tests levels, differ only in the speed.

The rules and regulations for the HTC Morse Code exam below describe the requirements for the advanced award levels.



Costs

Basic Award and Lapel pins for the Advanced levels are after 2021 at no costs available

Contact for questions

The members of the HTC Board of Directors are available to provide additional information

Our addresses: website at www.hb9htc.ch



HTC Morse Code examination rules

Test for “Advanced levels” **open to all**

The test for advanced CW ops and those returning to CW are conducted only for copying.

The Advanced Morse Code exams are taken at home by yourself, just like practicing in a familiar environment, using the HQX software provided at no charge by the HTC. In this regard, see “Submitting exam files per e-mail”.

The following characters are included in the tests:

Alphabetic characters: A to Z
Numerals: 0 to 9
Punctuation marks: (.) period
(,) comma
(?) question mark
(/) slash

Other alphanumeric characters and special characters such as prosigns can be learned independent of the selected language. So that a QSO can be conducted in a fluid and lively way, a few abbreviations, Q codes and prosigns should also be learned.

Examination text

With the HQX Training, if you select German as the test language, the examination text consists of groups of five characters, a QSO, plain text in each in Switzerland’s national languages (German/French/Italian) or in English. If you select English as the test language, the plain text is always in English. We make no guarantees that the text is free of typos. Such errors will be handled in a fair manner.

Test speeds and duration

The **advanced tests** are conducted at the following speeds:

Advanced Level II:	80 cpm (16 wpm, copying only)	5 minutes duration
Advanced Level III:	100 cpm (20 wpm, copying only)	5 minutes duration
Highest level:	120 cpm (24 wpm, copying only)	4 minutes duration

Submitting exam files per e-mail

An HTC Morse Code test which has been stored to a file can be sent to the HTC Morse Code Commission, through which you can request a lapel pin. To follow our standard procedure, go to the HTC website where you can find a submission form including the ability to attach a file.

See: *Learn and maintain Morse Code* → *HTC Morse Code certificate and awards* → *Submit exam*

Important: By submitting the exam file, you automatically certify that you have taken the exam yourself correctly and without any aids. The personal data in the saved file must correspond exactly to those of the person who actually took the exam.



Permitted errors in the copying test

A maximum of 1% to 2% errors may be made; in the Advanced tests, you should strive to have the lowest possible number of errors through practice.

At	80 cpm	max. 8 errors	2% error rate
At	100 cpm	max. 5 errors	1% error rate
At	120 cpm	max. 5 errors	1% error rate

Repeating the tests

The entire Morse Code exam can be repeated as many times as desired. However, only three different attempts are permitted per day. If the candidate does not succeed in those attempts, extra practice is recommended.

Appeals

All decisions of the HTC examination expert are final and cannot be appealed.

Last update, 23th September 2022 (2012)

The HTC Morse Code Commission