

JT65: Reports and Procedures in VK-ZL

Frequencies

- 144.225 is designated a Focus Frequency to focus activity – thus unlike a call frequency one does not need to QSY to make a contact.
- 144.325 is the secondary frequency and tends to be used for extended tests between two stations, and/or DXpeditions.
- A similar arrangement of frequencies applies to the higher bands
- For EME international practice is to use frequencies between 144.1 and 144.180. As this frequency range is used for weak signal SSB in VK-ZL care needs to be taken to avoid interfering with such terrestrial activity.

Sub-Modes

JT65 has sub-modes JT65a, JT65b and JT65c. The difference between the modes is that the tone spacing is twice as wide on “b” as a and twice as wide again on “c”. The wider spacing makes the mode less tolerant of frequency drift and frequency instability introduced by propagation such as libration frequency spreading on EME. The downside is that the wider spacing increases the noise seen over the wider bandwidth and thus the probability that any one bin might give a false detection due to noise. As a result mode “a” is around 1 dB more sensitive than mode “b” and 2 dB more sensitive than mode “c”.

The trend is to use the b or c modes at the higher frequencies where frequency stability of frequency spreading due to libration are encountered. The following seem to be the standards that are being adopted:

6 Meters JT65a
2 Meters JT65b
70 cm JT65b
23 cm JT65c

Transmission Period

As for FSK441, Southerly and Easterly stations TX first. While there is some ambiguity at the North-East to South-West boundary this is generally overcome by the additional rules that ZL always transmits first to VK and VK5 always transmits first to VK2/4.

Stations on DXpeditions should always transmit first, so that any station wishing to work them will know the period in which to listen.

For EME the practice is for the Easterly station to transmit first or for the period to be set by arrangement.

Signal Reports

The standard procedures provided with WSJT cover the OOO and RO reporting system used for EME. For terrestrial operations WSJT makes provision to send a report based on that measured by the WSJT program in the range -1 to -30 dB. This report is sent in place of the grid square with a format like -23 or R-23 where the “R” indicates confirmation that you have received both call signs and the report from the other station.