

CIVIL AIR PATROL PAMPHLET

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**LEARNING THE  
INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE**



PREPARED FOR  
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## LEARNING THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE

Learning the International Morse Code can be a lot of fun, and it's really easy if you approach it properly - that is, to think of it entirely in terms of sound. If you think of "dots and dashes," you're in for trouble. So go about it this way: When you see a "." in the chart on the next page, call it a "dit" - say it to yourself and make it sharply and staccato. When you see a "-" call it a "dahh" - accent it slightly and draw it out a bit, as "daahhh." So the letter "A" would be pronounced "dit-dahh" - or, to make it sound more like the actual code letter when you hear it on the air, "didaahh." It should have the same accent and swing as "today," making the "to" very short and accenting "day." When speaking other letters, remember to keep the "dit" short, the "dahh" longer and accented. Yes, we said speaking - every time you see the code equivalent for a letter say it to yourself, and don't try to memorize a picture of it as printed. Practice saying strings of dits - didididididi . . . etc.; it should sound like a blast from a machine gun. Then practice saying strings of dahhs - they should be long and smooth, with as short a space between them as your tongue can make.

The alphabet, numerals and punctuation marks are shown in this chart. Learn the letters in some random order such as E, T, A, R, I, S, N, M, O, H, D, L, U, V, B, C, F, and then on to the remainder. By such a system you will soon be able to make up short words and even sentences out of the early letters, such as tare, start, rate, snore, etc.; practice saying these to yourself in didah language. As you progress, concentrate on the "harder" letters like Q, Z, J, etc., and then practice with the numerals and punctuation marks. Do not use the code chart for long study; pick out a few letters and learn them, and then lay this booklet away while you practice saying the sounds to yourself. Or, hand the book to a friend so he or she can name some of the letters and check on your answers. When you are ready, go back to the chart to learn a couple more letters; again, lay the booklet away while you practice saying the new ones, mixing in plenty of the already-learned characters so you won't forget them. Don't hurry to read all the letters too soon. What you are doing is learning a type of mental coordination, and practice with only 8 or 10 letters is just as good from that standpoint as practice with all 26.

A very good way to develop code ability is for two people to learn the code together. Speak letters to each other, or simulate code by whistling or hissing through your teeth. Send single words as soon as you know enough letters, while the other fellow writes down your "message."

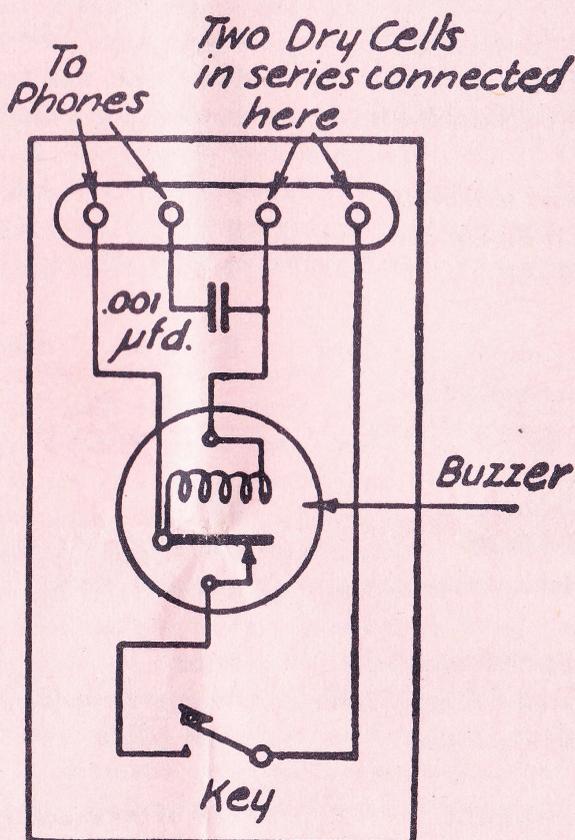
Code practice equipment may be built locally or purchased from a radio parts distributor. Additional helps on studying code are contained in "Learning the Radiotelegraph Code," which you may obtain by sending 50 cents to the American Radio Relay League, West Hartford, Connecticut.

## INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE

	ALPHABET	NUMERALS	
A	. - dit-dahh	1 . - - - - dit-dahh-dahh-dahh-dahh	
B	- . . . dahh-dit-dit-dit	2 . . - - - dit-dit-dahh-dahh-dahh	
C	- . . . dahh-dit-dahh-dit	3 . . . - - dit-dit-dit-dahh-dahh	
D	- . . dahh-dit-dit	4 . . . . - dit-dit-dit-dit-dahh	
E	. dit	5 . . . . . dit-dit-dit-dit-dit	
F	. . . . dit-dit-dahh-dit	6 - . . . . dahh-dit-dit-dit-dit	
G	- . . dahh-dahh-dit	7 - . . . . dahh-dahh-dit-dit dit	
H	. . . . dit-dit-dit-dit	8 - . . . . dahh-dahh-dahh-dit-dit	
I	. . dit-dit	9 - . . . . dahh-dahh-dahh-dahh-dit	
J	. - - - dit-dahh-dahh-dahh	0 - - - - - dahh-dahh-dahh-dahh-dahh	
K	- . - dahh-dit-dahh		
L	. . . . dit-dahh-dit-dit		
M	- - dahh-dahh		
N	- . dahh-dit		
O	- - - dahh-dahh-dahh		
P	. - . . dit-dahh-dahh-dit		
Q	- . . - dahh-dahh-dit-dahh		
R	. . . dit-dahh-dit		
S	. . . dit-dit-dit		
T	- dahh		
U	. . - dit dit-dahh		
V	. . . - dit-dit-dit-dahh		
W	. - - dit-dahh-dahh		
X	- . . - dahh-dit-dit-dahh		
Y	- . - - dahh-dit-dahh-dahh		
Z	- . . . dahh-dahh-dit-dit		
			PUNCTUATION, ETC.
		period	. - . . . -
		comma	- . . . - -
		question mark	. . - . . .
		error	. . . . . . . .
		double dash (BT)	- . . . -
		wait (AS)	. - . . .
		end of message (AR)	. - . . .
		invitation to transmit	- . -
		end of work (SK)	. . . . - -

## PRACTICE DEVICES

A circuit for a buzzer code practice set is shown below. The size of the condenser determines the strength of the signal in the headphones. Should the .001 microfarad unit shown give too loud a signal, it may be reduced to 500 or even 250 micro-microfarads.



The above technique requires someone to send well-formed characters. A better solution for receive-only learning would be to obtain phonograph records for beginners in code. These, too, may be purchased from radio equipment and parts companies.