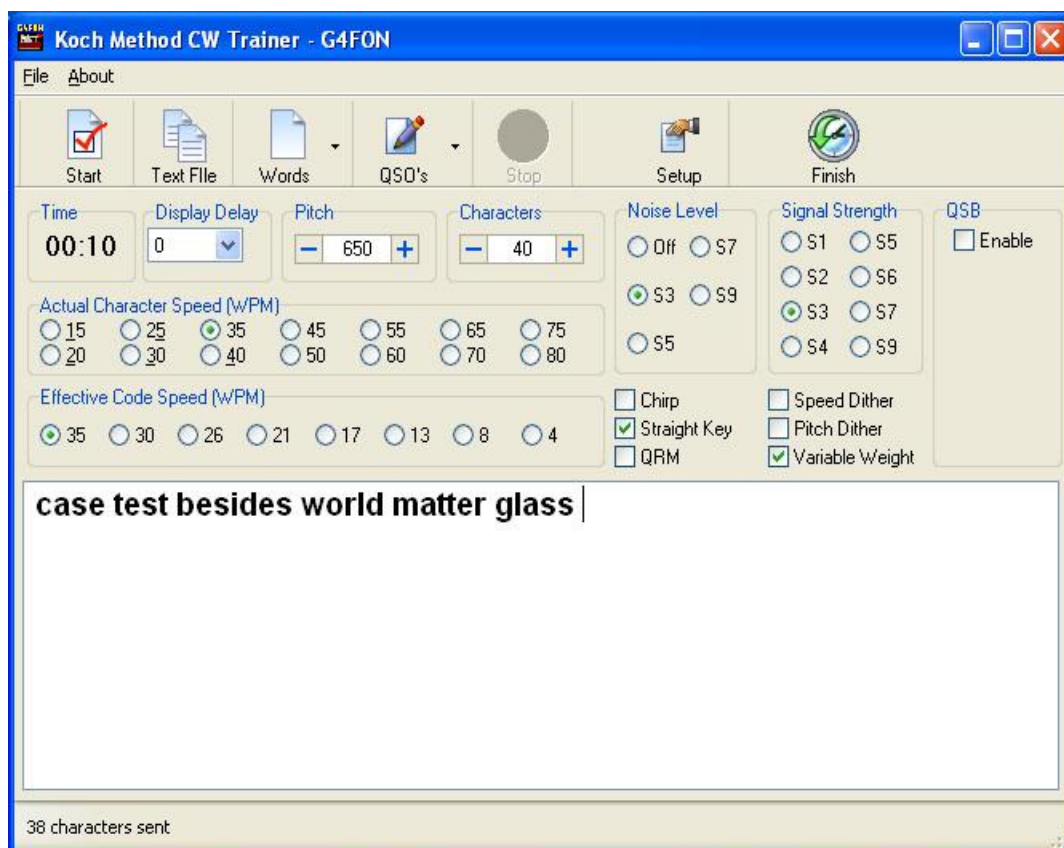


Morse Trainer

When I returned to Amateur Radio my CW was decidedly rusty. What I felt I needed was a CW Trainer to get my speed back. I looked around the Web and found an article by [Dave Finley N1IRZ](#) on a method of CW training developed by a German psychologist called Ludwig Koch back in the 1930's.

Reading though Dave's article, I decided that it all made a lot of sense. Basically you start off learning the code at the speed you would like to achieve. Unlike the Farnsworth method which seeks to reduce the gap between the letters as you become more efficient, Koch came up with the idea that you should start off just learning two letters at full speed and add an additional letter once you reach 90% proficiency until you have mastered them all. Since you are only learning one new letter or figure at a time, your frustration is significantly reduced.

Dave Finley gave a suggested order for learning the letters and figures and recommended a programme called Super Morse to use as a trainer. I quickly realised that Super Morse offered more features than were required to learn Morse by the Koch method and decided to write my own programme orientated towards the Koch method.



The resulting programme runs under Windows 9x, NT and XP and requires a sound card. You are welcome to download a copy and see how you get on.

If you have a suggestion, send it to me and I will endeavour to incorporate it in a later release.

Positive feedback from users of the software make it clear that the Koch method is a very effective way of both learning Morse and also improving your Morse skills.

Version 9 is here!

With an improved visual style and integration of a range of different Word, QSO and Test files, version 9 builds upon the success of version eight. If you are upgrading from an earlier version, I suggest uninstalling the old version first - you will not lose any settings if you do this.

[Download Version 9](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

The most frequently asked question to date has been:

"Okay I have mastered K and M, how do I move onto the next character?"

To do this you need to change the 'Characters' setting on the main window. Click on the up or down chevron to change the value, or enter it directly into the box.



"The software crashes with an error in RichEdit.DLL after playing a few characters"

This is a conflict between the software and the sound card driver. To fix it, open the application and then click on the Setup button. Uncheck the box labeled "Use Windows Callbacks". Next close the Setup Window and then the application.

Next time you start the application, it should be error free. Let me know by email if this does not fix the problem for you.

KochRx

Have you wanted to be able to type in the letters and have them checked automatically? David Gwillim, KB2TQX, has created a companion programme which allows you to enter the text on a keyboard and then cut and paste the output from my software for checking. You can download David's software [here](#) and for all the features to work properly, you should store it in the same folder/directory as Koch.Exe.

If you have any questions or comments specifically on the KochRx software, [contact KB2TQX](#).

12 July 2002, check out David's latest version, which no longer requires you to cut and paste the text from application to application.

12 December 2006, an update from Dave to reflect the changes I made for version 9 which broke the previous version - sorry about that.

Reporting problems

If you experience a problem with the Morse trainer, contact me at the email address shown to the left of this screen. When reporting a problem time can be saved by sending me the following details:

1. The version number of the software from the About screen.
2. Your computer make, amount of RAM and CPU speed.
3. What make of sound card your computer uses (right-click My Computer, select properties, click on Device Manager and then look under multimedia for your sound card).
4. What version of Windows you are running.
5. What other programs you have running when you tried to run the Koch trainer - look on the task bar. Pay particular attention to anything that might be using the sound card.

and also include a brief description of the problem.