

THE MORSE CODE

ON

COLUMBIA RECORDS



The Quickest Way to Learn the Morse Code

THE MORSE CODE is the language of telegraphy. It is the form in which the news and commercial messages of the world are transmitted and received, the coming of wireless telegraphy only adding to its importance and the scope of its usefulness.

The Morse Code is simply dots and dashes used in different combinations—each combination representing a letter, figure, or sign. Thus a dot followed by a dash represent the letter A; a dash followed by a dot represent the letter N; and many other combinations.

The owner of a Broadcasting Receiving Set will hear many of these dot and dash messages over the radius of his receiving. They are apparently unintelligible; actually they are as readable as letters in print. Some amateurs have acquired the art of reading the Morse Code thus transmitted from printed handbooks. This, however, necessitates close study and is frequently found both tedious and difficult because the brain is endeavouring to assimilate through the eye what in reality is only heard by the ear; Morse Code is only heard not seen.

That difficulty is now overcome with the aid of the gramophone, and in order that the Wireless Amateur may understand what is going on in the ether when he listens in to various Wireless Stations working, and so that he may have an intelligent grasp of the meaning of the Morse Signals he overhears, a set of Columbia Records has been prepared by means of which this may be accomplished.

On the principle that oral instruction is necessary as an aid to understanding, the Morse expert engaged to make these Columbia records carefully *explains by word of mouth*, on the records themselves, how the Morse Code is constructed. This feature is of most valuable help, since, once more, it enables the ear to be concentrated on the lessons, and adds a human element to the instruction that renders the teaching of greater interest.

These Columbia Morse Code records take the listener through the entire alphabet, and further embody the most up-to-date methods of Wireless Telegraphy on a commercial scale as well as including carefully graduated matter for practice purposes telegraphed in such a manner as to provide—in conjunction with the speed regulator on the gramophone—sufficient variation in speed of signalling to take the beginner from the lowest to the highest degree of the art of telegraphy.

To still further assist the student the contents of each record are printed here. In doing this, however, a slight variation has been made from the most common method of expressing Morse in print; usually the dots and dashes are arranged thus: · · · — — — but here the dashes are set upright, so that the eye takes them in more readily.

The lessons are divided into six parts on three records, extending as given on the following pages.

(Presented with Columbia Record No. 3262.)

MORSE CODE RECORD No. 3262—Part 1

This first part gives the Morse Code as used in International Wireless Telegraphy, gradually built up from the elementary dot and dash. It is the quickest way to learn the Morse Code. Each letter of the alphabet is dealt with in this part.

The record is as follows:—

The International Morse alphabet is made up of dots, dashes, and spaces or silences. The following are dots: and these are dashes: IIIIII

Dashes are three times the length of dots. The most frequently used letter in the alphabet is the letter E, and this is represented by a single dot E. Letter E again three times E E E

By using dots and dashes together in various combinations the whole alphabet, figures, punctuation marks and other signs necessary in telegraphy are made up, in this manner:—

Dot and dash together represent the letter A. A
·-|

A three times A A A
·-| ·-| ·-|

Dash and dot together represent the letter N. N
|-·

N three times N N N
|-· |-· |-·

Two dots represent the letter I. I
··

I three times I I I
·· ·· ··

Two dashes represent the letter M. M
||

M three times M M M
|| || ||

Three dots represent the letter S. S
...

S three times S S S
...

Three dashes represent the letter O. O
|||

O three times O O O
||| ||| |||

The whole alphabet will now be transmitted from A to Z, each letter being given twice:—

A A B B C C D D E E F F G G
·-| ·-| |·· |·· |·| |·| |· · · ··| ··| ||· ||·

H H I I J J K K L L M M N N
··· ··· ·· ·· ·|| ·|| |·| |·| ··| ··| || || |· |·

O O P P Q Q R R S S T T U U
||| ||| ·|| ·|| ||· ||· |· |· ·· ·· | | ·| ·|

V V W W X X Y Y Z Z
··| ··| ·|| ·|| |·| |·| |·|| |·|| ||· ||·

MORSE CODE RECORD No. 3262—Part 2

In this section figures are carefully dealt with and followed by easy plain language and some figures for practice purposes. With regulator at slowest speed this part can be understood and translated if Part 1 has been thoroughly learned.

By repeating the process of translating this Part with increased speeds the amateur will become competent to pass on to Part 3. The plain language is the first verse of the poem "Excelsior."

The record is as follows:—

Figures are made up of further combinations of dots and dashes, and the figures 1 to 0 will now be transmitted, each figure being sent three times.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| · | · | · | ·· | ·· | ·· | ··· | ··· | ··· | ···· | ···· | ···· |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| ····· | ····· | ····· | ···· | ···· | ···· | ··· | ··· | ··· | ·· | ·· | ·· |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| · | · | · | | | | | | | | | |

Practice in plain words and figures follows.

T H E S H A D E S O F N I G H T W E R E
 |····· ······ ·|· ··· ||| ··| |· ·|· ···| ·|· ··|·

F A L L I N G F A S T A S T H R O U G H A N
 ·|· |·|·|·|· ·|· |· ·|· |· ···| ·|· |···· |·| |·|·|· ··· ·|·

A L P I N E V I L L A G E P A S S E D A
 ·|· |·|·|·|· ·|· ···| ··|·|·|·|· ·|·|· ·|·|·|· ··· ·|· ·|

Y O U T H W H O B O R E M I D S N O W
 |·| |·| |·| |·| ·|· ···| |····| |· |·|·|· ···|·|· ···|·|·|·

A N D I C E A B A N N E R W I T H T H E
 ·|·|·|· ··|·|· ·| |···|·|·|·|·|· ·|·|·|·|· ·|·|·|· |·····

S T R A N G E D E V I C E E X C E L S I O R
 ···|·|·|·|·|·|·|· ·|·|· ···|·|·|·|·|·|·|·|·|·|·|·|·|· ···|·|·

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|---|
| 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| · | · | · | ···· | ····· | ····· | ··· | ··· | ··· | ···· | ··· | · |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| ····· | · | · | · | ··· | ····· | · | · | ··· | ···· | ···· | · |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | | | | | |
| · | · | ···· | ····· | ····· | ··· | ··· | | | | | |

MORSE CODE RECORD No. 3263—Part 3

This part consists of more difficult plain language matter with some figures and difficult words, transmitted at a little higher speed than Part 2.

The message is as follows:—

THE AVERAGE MAN WHO HAS
BEEN WANDERING ABOUT THE
WORLD IS ALWAYS GLAD TO
RETURN TO HIS OWN HOME
LAND THE ICELANDER BORN
AND RAISED IN REYKJAVIK
AFTER LIVING FOR A FEW
YEARS IN WINNIPEG RETURNS
TO REYKJAVIK AS HE SAYS
IT WAS TOO COLD FOR HIM
IN WINNIPEG THIS SEEMS TO
US TO BE IMAGINARY UNTIL
WE LEARN THAT THE TEMPERATURE
RARELY GOES BELOW 10
DEGREES ABOVE ZERO
FAHRENHEIT AT REYKJAVIK

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MORSE CODE RECORD No. 3263—Part 4

This section includes stock quotations, etc., similar to that transmitted daily to ships at sea from many Wireless Stations. Speed is taken a little faster.

The message is as follows:—

at the opening of business
on saturday the french
exchange improved at
61 of 05 c the belgian to
67 of 40 c the italian to
92 1 r and the german to
28 0 0 0 m sterling
displayed renewed strength
the new york rate recovering
1 c to 4 . 64 5 / 8
stop london cables
4 . 65 1 / 2 6 0 days
sight 4 . 62 3 / 4 paris
short sight 7 . 60 rome
cables 5 . 13 amsterdam
40 . 0 0

b r i s t o l p a y j p m a r d i m a z a
[... · | ... | III · | ... · II · | | II · III · II · II · | · | · | ... · · II · | III · |

p a l a c i o c r i 9 4 6 / 2 1
· II · | · | · | | · | · · III | · | · | · · III · · | | ... | · | · | · · III · III

MORSE CODE RECORD No. 3264—Part 6

The message here is similar to Part 5, but of a more difficult character, and still representative of Commercial Working—especially of long-distance Stations. With the speed regulator set at the highest possible number of revolutions, the speed of the message then represents approximately the fastest which is commercially practicable when receiving by ear; i.e., without the aid of automatic recording apparatus.

The message is as follows:—

y o u r s e i g h t e e n j a n u a r y
| · II III · | · | · · · · II · · · | · · | · III · | · | · | · | · | II

e n q u i r e r s w a n t t w o s i n g l e s
· | · II · | · | · · · | · · · | · · · II · | · | · | · II III · · · | · II · | · · · ·

f o r i n t e r i o r s e r v i c e
· | · III · | · · | · · · | · · III · | · · · · | · · · | · · | · ·

g r o u n d t o t e n t h h u n d r e d
II · | · III · | · | · | · · | III | · | · | · · · · · · | · | · | · | · | · ·

t e n f e e t t e n i n c h e s c a b l e
| · | · · | · · · | | · | · · · | · | · · · · | · | · | · · · | · · ·

q u o t a t i o n a c c e p t y o u r
II · | · | III | · | | · · III | · | | · | · | · · II · | | · II III · | · |

p r o p o s a l a b r a s i o n
· II · | · III · II · III · · · | · | · · | · · · · | · | · · · · III |

s l a b b e r p a n n e l p r o p o s e
· · · · | · · · | · · · · · | · · II · | · | · | · · · | · · · II · | · III · II · III · · ·

c o m m e n d i n g w i t h g a l t a b l e
| · | · III II II · | · | · · · | · II · · II · · | · · · II · | · | · | · | · | · · ·

t o r b e n d e s a d e y u j a k o k
| III · | · | · · · | · | · · · · | · · | · | · II · | · | III · | · | III |

o f f e r f i r m t u e s d a y
III · | · · | · | · · | · · · | · II | · | · · · | · · · | · | II

2 5 3 / 7 9 5 s o n e x u j b a l
· III · · · · · · II | · | · II · · III · · · · · · · III | · · | · | · | III | · · · | · | ·

u j o l b d i s b i r e m a i n v e r y
 ··! ·III III·!· ·!· ·· ·· ·!· ·· ·!· · II ·! · ·!· ··!· ·!· ·!II

s t r o n g b i r m i n g h a m
 ·· I ·!· III I · II ·!· ·· ·!· II ·· I · II ···· ·! II

b r a d f o r d a t d e l f o v i b
 ·!· ·!· ·!· I· ·!· III ·!· I· ·! I I· · ·!· ·!· III ·!· ·!· ·!·

f l i r g t o r o r n e w y o r k
 ·!· ·!· ·· ·!· II · I III ·!· III ·!· I · ·! I II III III ·!· I· I

c h i c a g o n o v e m b e r o p t i o n
 I·!· ···· ·!·!· ·! II· III I· III ···!· · II I· ·· ·!· III ·II· I ·· III I·

r e p l y y o u r e x a c t p o s i t i o n
 ·!· ·!II· ·!· I·II I·II III ·!· ·!· ·!·!· ·! I·!· I ·!II· III ··· ·! ·· III I·

s t o p d e s p a t c h 2 6 0
 ·· I III ·II· I· · · · ·II· ·! I I·!· ··· ·!II I· ··· IIII

d o z e n s t e e l s
 I· III II· · I ··· I · · ·!· ···

Some Helpful Suggestions

The Morse Code is not intended to be read in printed form. It is based on sound: you *hear* dots and dashes.

To become accustomed to this idea, follow the lead of experienced telegraphists, and when speaking in terms of Morse, instead of saying "dot-dot-dash-dot-dot" use "di" instead of "dot" and "dah" instead of "dash." Thus in speech ·!· would be "dididahdidi." Be sure to refer in "dididah" language from the commencement: never as "dot-dot-dash." And you will find this a great help in acquiring Morse quickly.

As showing how general is this method of describing Morse Code, it may be said that among wireless operators the signal frequently sent out before commencing a message, *i.e.*, I·I·I I·I·I is known as the "La-di-da-di-da" signal.

The amateur who has followed carefully the instructions in this series of records should then be in a position to read Morse, and further help will be found in recognised Morse and Wireless text-books which would give lists of wireless station and ship signals, and much other information of a more technical character.

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