

# A Quick Setup Guide for Fldigi!

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## Get the Software

Download

- Fldigi
- Flmsg
- Flwrap

from SourceForge

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/fldigi/files/>

and run the installer (.exe) for each of them.\*

(\* Always check any downloads with your antivirus before executing)

(\*\* For Android Users: you can use your phone or tablet to run AndFlmsg. Files and instructions available here: <https://sourceforge.net/projects/fldigi/files/AndFlmsg/> )

## Turn off system sounds in Windows

After you have hooked up your Signalink please make sure it is not selected as the default audio device by right mouse clicking on the speaker icon



and selecting **Open Sound Settings,**

Select **USB Audio CODEC**

Click on **Device Properties**

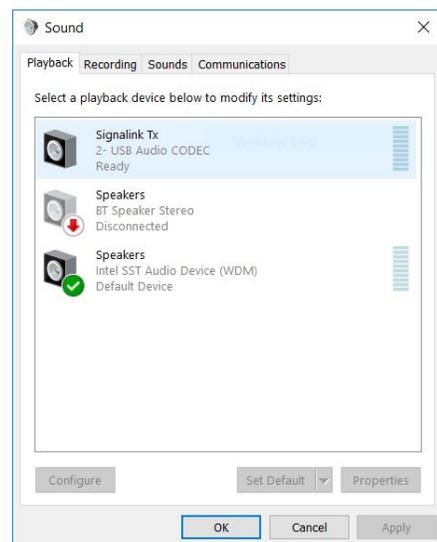
Click on **Additional Device Properties**

Click on **Levels**

Then select **Playback**. Right-click your computer's internal soundcard and **Set as Default Device** and then right-click again and **Set as Default Communication Device**. There should be a green check mark on the internal soundcard device now.

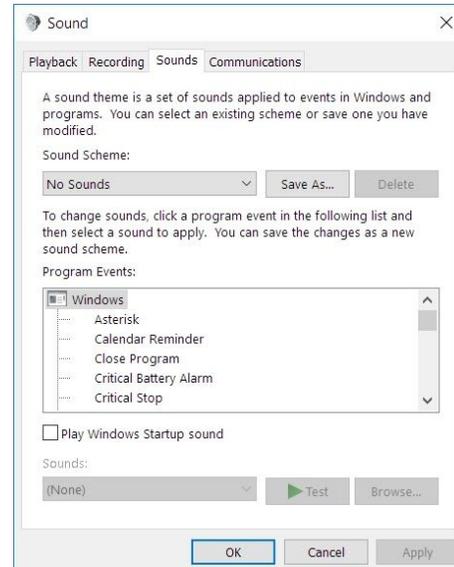
Do the same for **Recording**.

Then click **OK**.



Select **Sounds**.

Under **Sound Scheme** select **No Sounds**.



Also make sure that Signalink is not your active Playback Device. You can select your active playback device by left clicking on the speaker icon and selecting any playback device other than USB Audio CODEC. Selecting Speakers/Headphones in the example here is a good idea.



### **Quick Tip:** Build a direct shortcut to your soundcards for quick access

- Right-click on **Desktop**
- Select **Create Shortcut**
- In "Type the location of the item" copy and paste **mmsys.cpl**
- Click **Next**
- Type **Soundcards**
- Click **Finish**

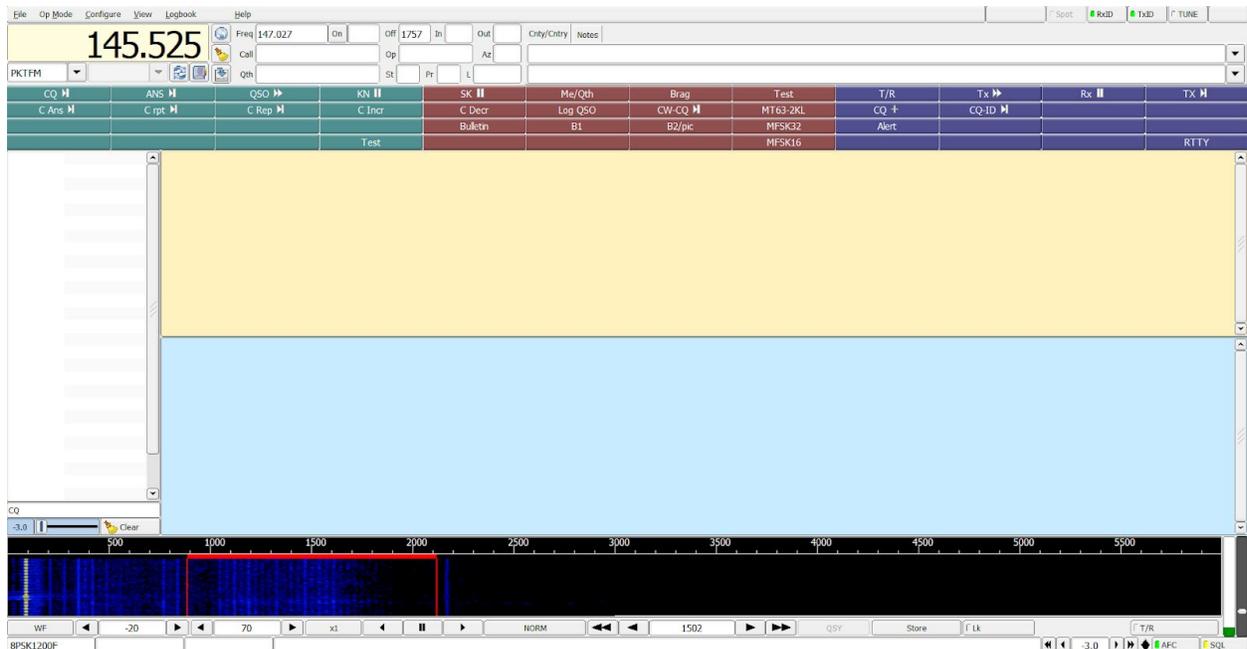
Customize your Soundcards Shortcut icon:

Properties -> Shortcut -> Change Icon -> paste C:\Windows\system32\SHELL32.dll

## Setting up Fldigi

The first time you run Fldigi there will be a setup wizard. Fill in what you know but do not spend too much time there, it will be covered below.

After double-clicking on the Fldigi icon the main screen will appear.



## Configure Fldigi

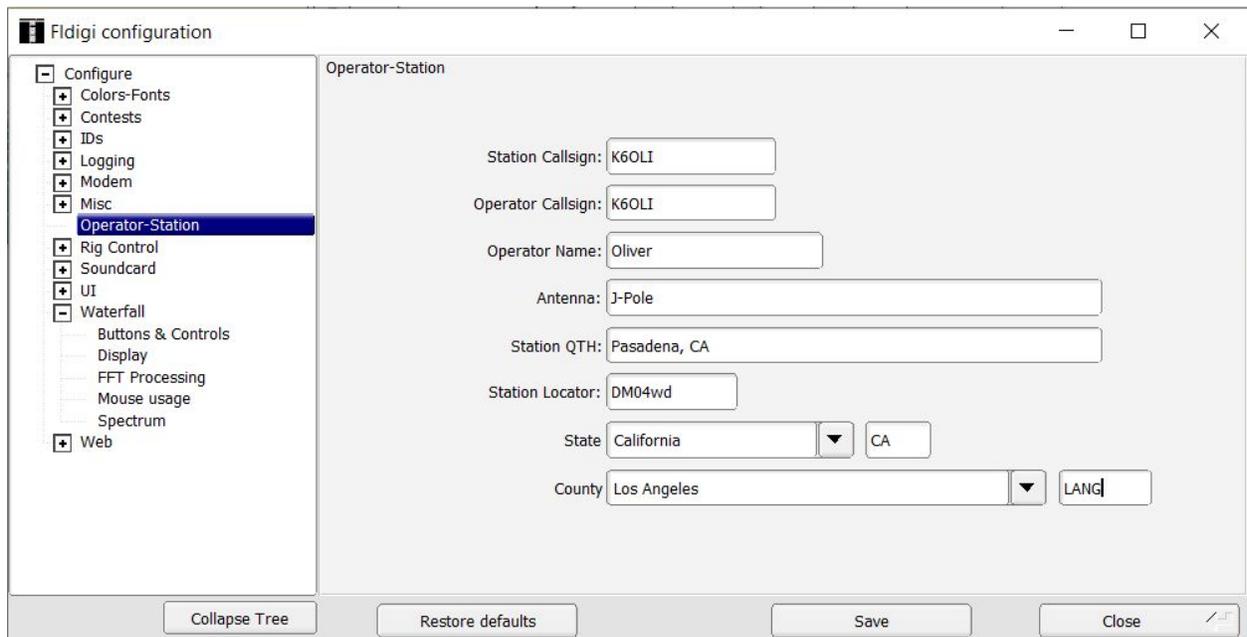
Now click on **Configure**, then **Config Dialog**



Click on **Operator-Station** in the menu on the left.

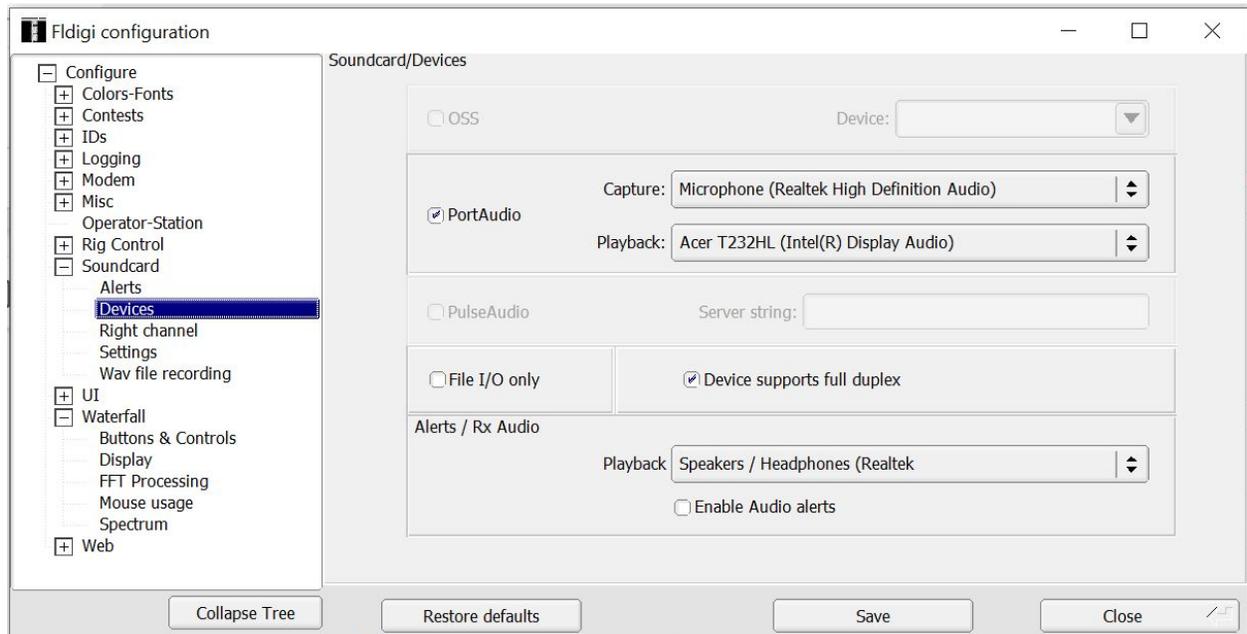
Fill in the fields with your **Callsign**, **Name**, **QTH** and **Locator\***. Then click **Save**. Please note that the Fldigi Configuration window will stay open. Keep it open.

\*You can look up your Maidenhead Locator at [http://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid\\_square.php](http://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php)



## Configure Audio Devices

Click on the Soundcard tab. In **Devices** check **PortAudio** and select your soundcard. (For this example, we use the computer's built-in soundcard)

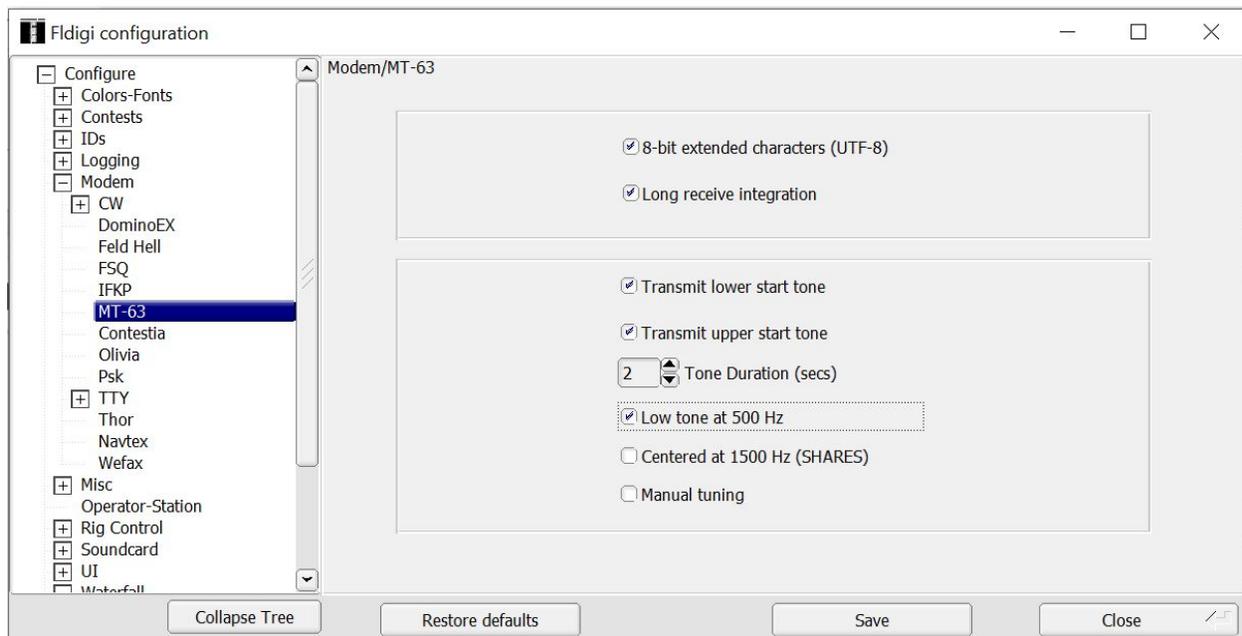


### Quick tip

When using a SignalLink you would select **USB Audio Codec** for **Capture** and **Playback**.

## Configure Modem - MT63

Click on the **Modem** tab then select the **MT-63** tab in the tab row below. Make sure **8-bit extended characters (UTF-8)**, **Long receive integration**, **Transmit lower start tone** and **Transmit upper start tone** are all checked. Click **Save**.



## Configure Misc - NBEMS

Click on the **Misc** tab, then select **NBEMS Interface**.

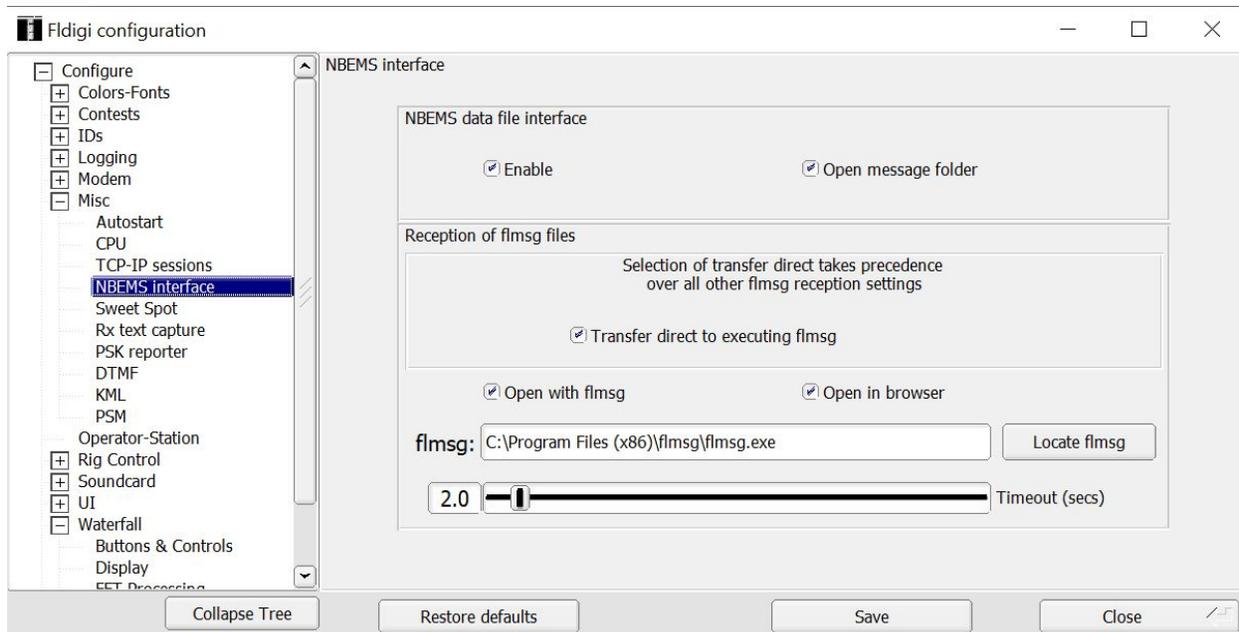
Check **Enable**, **Open Message Folder**, **Transfer direct to executing flmsg**, **Open with flmsg** and **Open in browser**. This will automate your work with Flmsg.

Click **Save**.

Next click on **Locate flmsg** and select your flmsg.exe.

In the example below it was located in C:\Program Files(x86)\flmsg\flmsg.exe

Click **Save**. Click **Close**.



**Quick tip:**

Fmsg is actively developed. In this example, **fmsg** is version 4.0.5, which is typically located in

C:\Program Files (x86)\fmsg-4.0.5\

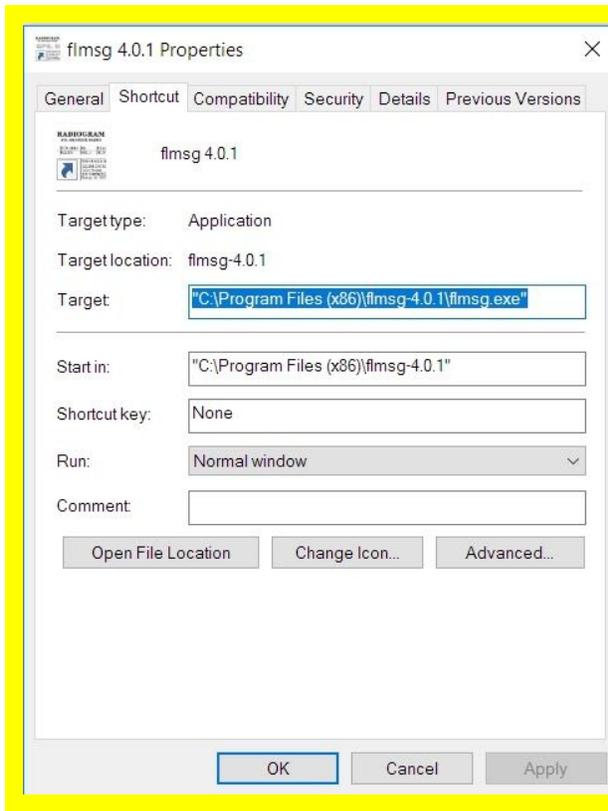
or

C:\Program Files\fmsg-4.0.5\

You could install **fmsg** in a folder without the version extension, for example:

C:\Program Files\fmsg

Then install future versions in the same folder, overwriting the last version. That has the advantage that you avoid having to update the fldigi reference to fmsg every time there is a version upgrade of fmsg.



### Quick tip

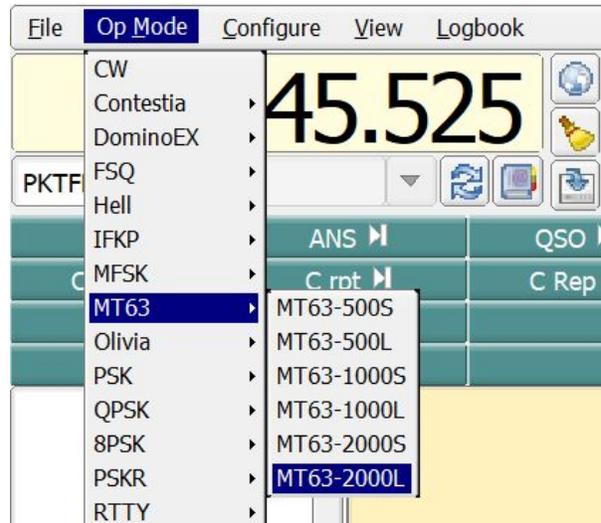
A quick way of finding the location of flmsg.exe is to right mouseclick the **flmsg shortcut** on your desktop, selecting **Properties** and copying the address without the quotation marks and pasting it in Fldigi.

## Select Op Mode

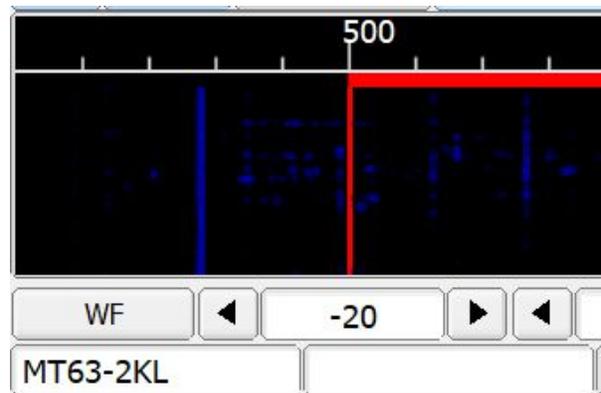
ARES LAX NE is mainly operating on MT63 2000L or 8PSK1000F.

In the main window click on **Op Mode**,  
Select **MT63**, then select **MT63-2000L**.

(You can also set up a [Macro](#) button for each of those modes)



You can tell what **Op Mode** you are in at the bottom left hand corner of the main screen.



## Transmit and Receive ID

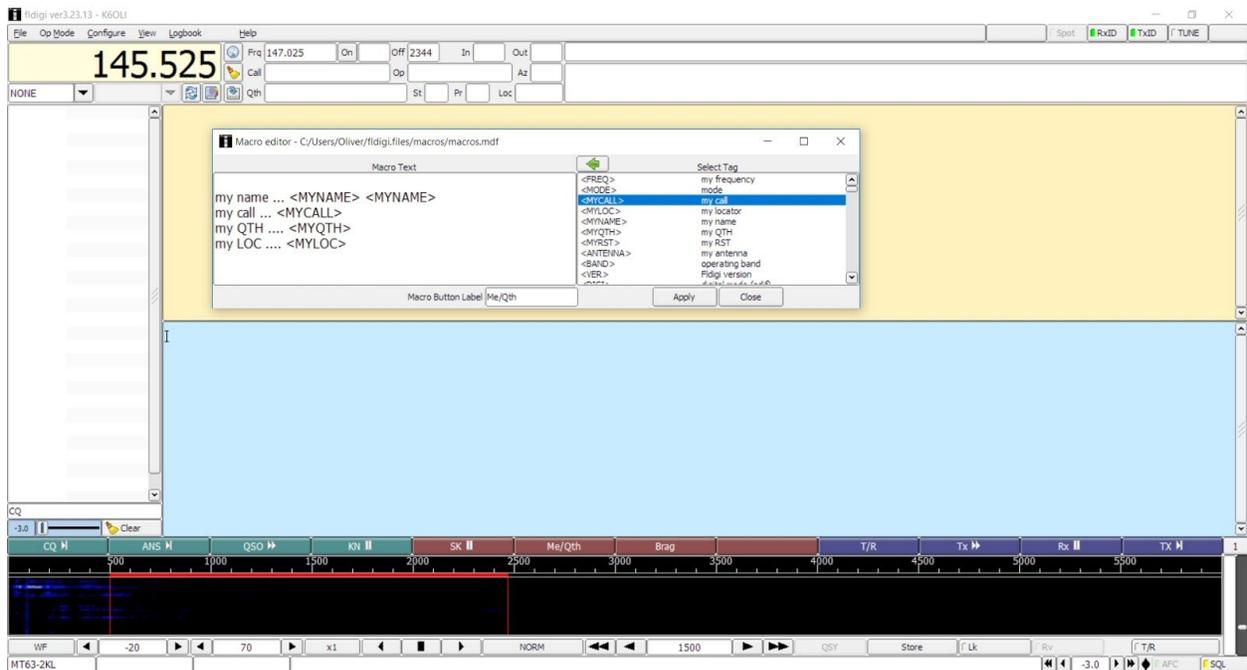
In the upper right hand corner of your screen click on **RxID** and **TxID** to activate.



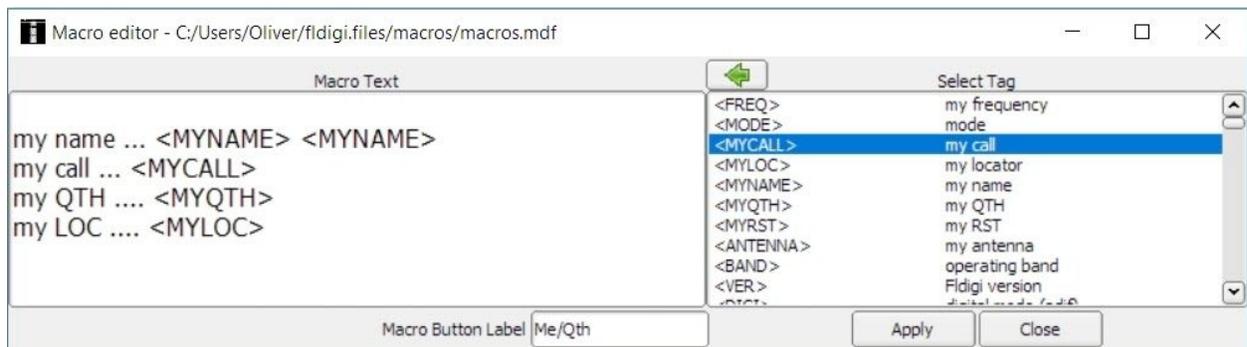
# Macros



The Fldigi macros will quickly become your best friend. They can be customized by right clicking on the macro button and filling in the information.



Fields in<> will be autopopulated with the information you entered at the beginning. <MYNAME> will be your name in the outbox, for example.



Activate a macro by clicking on it or use the corresponding F-Key (F1, F2, F3, etc.). If a macro has <TX> written at the end it will autotransmit when activated.

If it does not autoactivate then click on the macro to put it in the blue Outbox and and click a blue send button.

**T/R** turns transmission on and off.

**Tx>>** is continuous transmission. Turn off continuous transmission by clicking **T/R** or **Rx||**. **Rx||** is receive. So you would type your message, click **Rx||** where you want to switch to receive (^r will appear in outbox) and then click **Tx>>**. When the message reaches the ^r in the transmission cycle your transmission will stop and Fldigi will return to listening mode. **Tx>|** sends the message and then automatically returns to receive mode.

## Modem Macros

**<MODEM:MT63-2KL>** for switching to MT63-2KL  
**<MODEM:8PSK1000F>** for switching to 8SK1000F

## Check-in Macro (ARES LAX)

Keep everything in <BRACKETS> as those items are autofilled by Fldigi. You may enter your own information in the Tactical Call, Rig and MESH (Y/N) fields.

The "For NCS information" is identical to the top and is useful for copying and pasting check-ins.

- Begin copy below this line -

Check-in

Tactical Call: ARLINGTON  
Callsign: <MYCALL>  
Name: <MYNAME>  
Location: <MYQTH>  
Rig: Kenwood TM-D710G  
Antenna: <ANTENNA>  
MESH (Y/N): Y (2.4GHz/5.8GHz)  
Date: <LD>  
Time: <LT>

For NCS

TACTICAL CALL,CALLSIGN,FIRSTNAME,LOCATION,RIG,ANTENNA,MESH(Y/N),Date,Time  
LAC-OLIVER,<MYCALL>,<MYNAME>,<MYQTH>,Kenwood TM-D710G,<ANTENNA>,Y  
(2.4GHz/5.8GHz),<LD>,<LT>

- End copy above this line-

## Check-out Macro (ARES LAX)

- Begin copy below line -

Check Out

Tactical Call Sign: ARLINGTON

Operator Name: <MYNAME>

Operator Call Sign: <MYCALL>

Location: <MYQTH>

Station secured on <LD> at <LT>

For NCS

CheckOut,Date,Time

<MYCALL>,<LD>,<LT>

- End copy above this line-

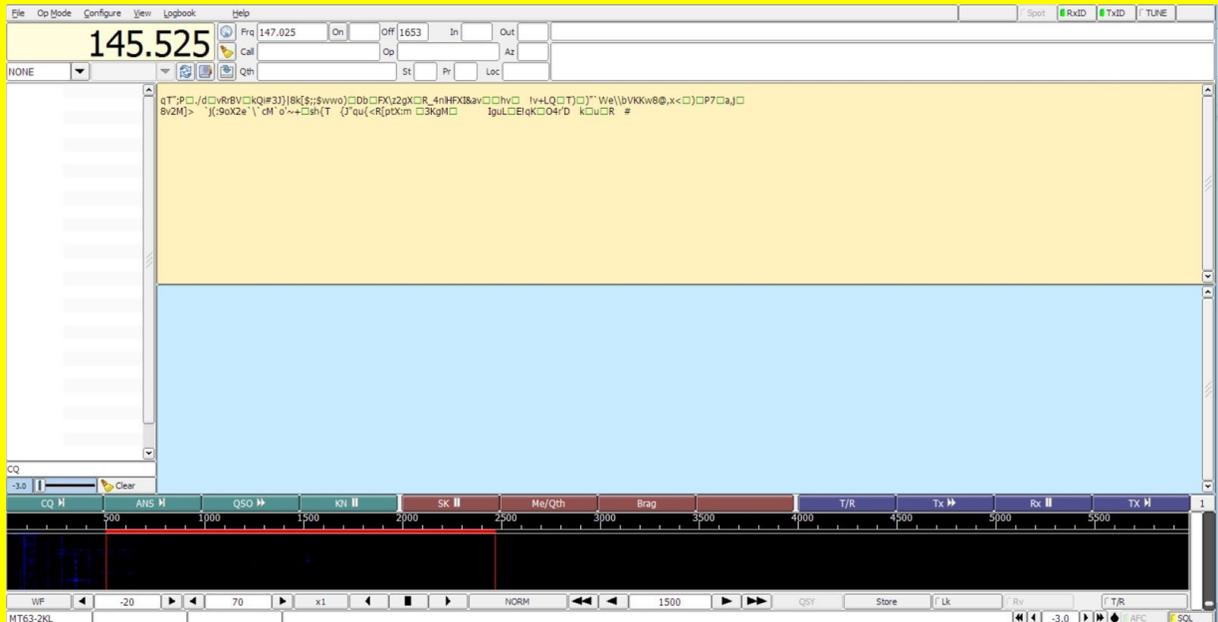
## Finally!

You are now ready to send and receive Fldigi messages. You can choose to use Fldigi manually with your built-in soundcard (Rx through your computer microphone and Tx through the speakers while pushing the PTT) or use an external soundcard like Signalink to automate the Tx/Rx.

## Additional Quick Tips

### Squelch Random Characters

You may see random characters being decoded in your receive window:



#### Fix:

In the lower right hand corner click on SQL, which will activate the Fldigi squelch and move the slider above up just until the random decode stops.

