

## LINKING and COMMAMDS

D-STAR is so much fun, quick, reliable and a great way to keep in touch with other Hams around your city, your state, and around the world. I have heard a lot of Hams asking how to do certain things like to make a gateway contact and what is the best way. Someday you might want to make a gateway call or be able to respond to a station calling in or even make a contact to Japan or respond to a Japan station calling your rptr. I hope the following explains this.

The "OLD WAY", as I call it, was to do the following:

Say you want to call K4WAM in Charlotte or just a CQ call to Charlotte just to see if anyone is around.

You would have in the "your" memory slot (or do it manually)

/KI4WXS B and RPTR 1 is KI4SBA B and RPTR 2 is KI4SBA G (note: port letters are in the 8<sup>th</sup> space)

You would key up and say this is KJ4VO calling to the Charlotte rptr...anyone around? I am on the KI4SBA B rptr in Atlanta. Or K4WAM, Bill, you around? KJ4VO calling from Atlanta on the KI4SBA port B rptr.

Now at this point you still cannot hear them. And if someone was listening they would either one touch you (capture your call) or go to their "your" memory slot and point back to Atlanta.

/KI4SBA B and RPTR 1 is KI4WXS B and RPTR 2 is KI4WXS G (note: port letters are in the 8<sup>th</sup> space) Then both Hams could talk.

This is all good and still works (even though some bad audio issues are occurring lately using this method but are being addressed)

The drawbacks are: say 3 more Hams here in Atlanta and 3 more Hams in Charlotte want to join in and talk at this point (roundtable style 8 Hams now) the other six will have to fumble around with either going to their Charlotte or Atlanta memory slot or do a one touch then all 8 can talk. Again this still works but...the "NEW WAY", to me works much easier and no audio problems.

The "NEW WAY", as I call it, is to do the following:

Instead of using the FORWARD SLASH /KI4WXS B you would just do the following:

You would have in "your" memory slot (or do it manually)

KI4WXSBL (note B, their port, is in the 7th space and L, link command, is in the 8th space)

You would key and say this is KJ4VO linking to the Charlotte rptr.

You hear the command say "REMOTE SYSTEM LINKED"

Hams in Charlotte will hear that too. At this point SBA B and WXS are LINKED. Both sides can now hear and talk to each other. All they have to do is stay on their local CQCQCQ setting. And the one who LINKED it would go back to their CQCQCQ setting.

Now 1st thing is when you do the LINK it is good practice just to stay silent for maybe 30 seconds because they might have had a conversation going. Then jump in and make your call, this is KJ4VO direct linked from Atlanta, anybody listening? Or call Bill... K4WAM this is KJ4VO you around? I am directly linked so just stay on your local setting.

What is so good about direct linking is again no fumbling around on SBA's or WXS's side...no one touch needed...just stay on the CQCQCQ setting. Plus if a DV-DONGLE is on SBA or WXS both rptrs and hear and talk to them too. So now 8 or more Hams and the dongle users can all talk. When you are done go to the UNLINK COMMAND in a memory slot.

\_\_\_\_U Note: U is in the 8th space (the underlines \_ are spaces (7).

The voice will say "REMOTE SYSTEM UNLINKED"

And you are done.

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Same goes for LINKING to the reflectors

You would have in the "your" memory slot REF001CL

Note: C (the port) is in the 7th space and L is in the 8th space.

Same goes for doing this. You would say this is KJ4VO linking to reflector 1C. Then go back to the CQCQCQ setting, wait abt 30 seconds and make your call. Something like this is KJ4VO calling from Atlanta GA. Or call someone you know is on the reflector.

I link KI4SBA B to REF001C a lot and so does W4DOC B or sometimes WX4GPB. Anyone can do this. Now if no one is using the reflector and you want to bring it down maybe ask is anybody locally using SBA B ? If no one comes back UNLINK it and use it locally. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ U (U in the 8th space) It can be brought back up later.

Other COMMANDS: I and E

I is for the Information COMMAND

You would have in "your" memory slot KI4SBA I (I is in the 8th space) Key up and say maybe KJ4VO testing. At this point, when you unkey, it will either say the ID of the rprr "KI4SBA DIGITAL RPTR" which means it is not linked to anything or it will say "REMOTE SYSTEM LINKED" this means it is linked to somewhere (does not let you know where it is linked to) but...again it you want to use it locally and maybe someone made a call and forgot to unlink it. Maybe ask is anyone using the rprr? What are we linked too? If no one answers just unlink it if you want to make a call.

(note: one way to determine where a repeater is linked to is to go to the website for that rprr. For example: <https://ki4sba.dstargateway.org> This site also shows the DVDongle users and summarizes the last heard on that rprr)

E is for the Echo Test COMMAND

This is a good way to check to see how well you are getting into your local rprr. It is also a good way to check your TX audio.

You would have in "your" memory slot KI4SBA E (E is in the 8th space) Key up and say this is KJ4VO ECHO test 1 2 3 4 5 or whatever. Unkey and it will play it back.

Cities with multiple D-STAR rprrs can link together. Example: you can program W4DOC BL from KI4SBA B this way say you are up in North GA and your buddy is downtown Atlanta. Link them up! Or you can link them to a Reflector like the NETS do. Don't forget to UNLINK when you are done.

Note: Japan and other parts of the world do not have this D LINK (G2) and still require the FORWARD SLASH method. That is still the only way to contact them. You cannot one touch them. If you do try to contact Japan a good way is to 1st have their rprr programmed:

EXAMPLE: /JP1YIQA

Then either have programmed on your transmit message and or tell them when you make the call to "program ur /KI4SBAB"

This is KJ4VO kilo juliet 4 victor oscar calling from Atlanta Ga from the KI4SBA kilo india 4 sierra bravo alpha port B module B.

Then allow them time to program your info in and hopefully you will make that contact. Japan calls the USA a lot so it good to be ready to be able to respond to them. One more thing to note:

Japan's port A is their 70cm band and port B is their 1.2 band.

I have had many nice Japan contacts.

Hope this helps explain LINKING and COMMANDS...Have fun and make those contacts!

73

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