

RSQ Table – an Improved digital signal reporting system

READABILITY		
R5	95%+	Perfectly readable
R4	80%	Practically no difficulty; occasional missed characters
R3	40%	Considerable words distinguishable
R2	20%	Occasional words distinguishable
R1	0%	Undecipherable

STRENGTH	
S9	Very Strong trace
S7	Strong trace
S5	Moderate trace
S3	Weak trace
S1	Barely Perceptible trace

QUALITY	
Q9	Clean Signal - no visible unwanted sidebar pairs
Q7	One barely visible pair
Q5	One easily visible pair
Q3	Multiple visible pairs
Q1	Splatter over much of the spectrum

RSQ Readability

The new descriptive table has a corresponding range of percent readable text, consistent with the common practice of providing a percentage figure during a QSO or when responding to the inevitable “HW CPY?” at the end of an over. Currently, a % readable text figure is often provided to the other station to clarify its readability after the traditional RST report has been sent.

RSQ Strength

Most HF digital mode programs provide a broad band waterfall or spectrum receive display. As a result, it is common practice for operators to monitor and even decode multiple signals when working a narrow band digital station. Under these conditions, a visible measure of signal trace relative to noise is more meaningful than an S meter reading that averages the strength of all signals in the pass band.

RSQ Quality

The presence of additional unwanted trace modulation observed on the waterfall or spectrum indicates possible spurious emissions and provides a basis for assessing the quality of digital mode signals. The traditional RST Tone report being designed to evaluate CW signals for the presence of audible hum, key clicks, chirping etc is simply not relevant to digital modes.