



IRLP Operating Guideline

The following guidelines may differ from those provided by **your** local node operator.

In Japanese

IRLP - Keeping the Radio in Amateur Radio

As with any new technology, it does take some time to adopt to operating procedures from conventional FM repeater use. This work in progress can serve as a guideline wishing to use their local IRLP enabled repeater node.

COMMON MODES

There are two connection modes for an IRLP connection. Direct one-to-one or, one-to-many Reflector.

Direct connect is just like it sounds where repeater (node) "A" connects direct with node "B". This type of link the two nodes are interconnected and no other IRLP connections are needed. While repeaters "A" and "B" are connected, anyone attempting to connect with either node is told by a recording that - *"The node you are calling is currently connected to callsign"* hence local traffic on each repeater will be heard on the other repeater as well.

While Direct Connect is preferred for a city to city chat, the most common type of connection use today is via the Indianapolis Reflector (Ref 9200). A reflector is a Linux computer that is connected to any radio but rather sits on lots of internet bandwidth capable of allowing many repeaters to be inter-connected together by streaming the received audio back to the connected stations. Each reflector has 9 sub channels allowing up to 10 separate virtual channels to operate. These are identified by the last digit. For example - 9200 is the main channel, 9201, 9202, 9203 etc being virtual reflectors with identical capability as the main channel.

You can always check which stations are connected to the reflectors main and sub-channels by visiting <http://status.irlp.net> and looking for nodes connected to individual nodes or reflectors.

REFLECTOR USE

With reflector use the first thing we must all remember is to leave a gap between transmissions. Having said that this is a good time to list the three main rules when connected to a reflector.

Pause

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Due to the slight increase in delays created by multiple Tone Squelch radios in the links between the repeater and IRLP link radio, a slight change in our normal operating procedures is required with IRLP.

By leaving a pause between transmissions it

allows users on other nodes a chance to check in.

allows other nodes time to send touch-tone commands to drop their node.

The most important guideline to remember is leaving a pause after pressing PTT button as well as between transmissions.

Reflector 920X Guidelines

by Dave K9DC reflector 9200 owner

see below

Reflector 925X Guidelines

by Kent W7AOR reflector 925x owner

[click here](#)

Avoid local traffic while connected to the reflector.

By its nature, the reflector has a large footprint and a wide audience, therefore if local users like to have a discussion, they should disconnect from the reflector. If we hear a local conversation (all participants coming from the same node) that continues, I, or one of the other reflector ops will likely ask them to disconnect. If attempts to break into the conversation are unsuccessful the node may be blocked from the reflector (more on blocking later).

Along the same line, if two stations become engaged in an extended dialog involving themselves, then I would recommend they both move off the reflector and make a direct node connection, freeing up the reflector for others. If more than two nodes are involved moving to one of the lesser used reflectors might be an alternative, especially if one of them can check the web site for an available reflector. In the future, moving to one of the available channels will become an option.

Calling CQ DX :-)

It is acceptable to call CQ, in fact, if you really want to make a contact, it is preferable to say "K9DC calling CQ, is anyone available for a contact?" as opposed to "K9DC Listening" for 2 minutes, followed by a disconnect. However 3 x 3 x 47 CQs are unnecessary and left for CW/SSB frequencies where tuning around is the observed practice. Odds are you will be the first time.

It is acceptable to talk about the weather, or anything else that is geographically significant like anything else, within reason. A station in Indiana that says to a Colorado op, "Hey I see you have a mountain out there" will probably cause eyes to roll worldwide.

In general though, long winded, channel consuming conversations should be avoided. If there are usually a dozen or two connected systems, with perhaps hundreds of users it is like a chance to use the system.

A few other Reflector operational guidelines:

Listen first. When connecting to the main channel on a Reflector, odds are that you are entering into an existing conversation. **Wait for at least 15 seconds** to make sure you are not interrupting an existing QSO before calling.

Pause between transmissions. Many nodes are connected using simplex links, therefore the time it is possible for them to disconnect is between transmissions. Be sure to pause **at least 15 seconds** between transmissions.

Key your transmitter and wait before speaking. There are propagation delays across the globe as well as delays caused by sub audible tone decoders and other devices that cause a delay

the audio path is cut through. If you speak immediately upon PTT, the beginning transmission will not be heard.

Being **BLOCKED** from Reflectors.

IRLP reflectors have a management function allowing reflector control operators to block nodes from accessing the reflector. When a node is blocked, the reflector ALWAYS automatically generates an e-mail message to the e-mail address of the Node owner as **subdatabase@irlp.net**. The e-mail should contain the specific reason for the block. This is NEVER personal. It does NOT mean that we don't like you, but is only done to ensure operation of the reflector. Even my own node has been blocked.

Nodes are usually blocked for a technical malfunction, such as a locked COS, open squelch, extended hang time, or your repeater ID (with no user traffic) or courtesy beeps audible or any other problem that that impairs operation of the Reflector. Your node may also be blocked for rapid fire local traffic making it impossible for nodes to break in between transmissions.

Cross-linking other VoIP networks on IRLP reflectors is not allowed as very non IRLP VoIP systems mute Station IDs, hang timers and courtesy to IRLP does not permit retransmission of any source that is not part of a PTT transmission. With 20 or more repeaters connected together, sheer chaos would result if this hard rule was not enforced.

The reflector control ops may try to contact a local control op on the air to advise the problem, however this may not always be possible. It is important that the node owner respond to the e-mail message advising the problem has been corrected.

If you have any other specific questions I can address, please send them along.

MAKING A DIRECT CONNECTION

First of all listen on your local machine for at least 15 -30 seconds before transmitting to ask if the repeater is currently in use. Assuming all is clear, **identify your self** and give your name or number you wish to call. Example: "VE3xyz for the Sydney node" - - then encode for the node and release your PTT. Your local repeater should come up with a call sign and waits for the connection to be authenticated. This can take a few seconds of dead-air so be concerned. When the connection is confirmed, the voice ID of the destination node is transmitted back to you as well as your nodes voice ID to the other repeater.

NOTE: If your node is already connected to another node or reflector, a greeting will play saying; - "node is currently connected to...ID of the connection") In this case confirm if anyone desires a connection to remain up before dropping by using the OFF code..

Once connected and after hearing the confirming voice ID, **wait** at least 15 seconds before transmitting as.....

The repeater may be in use, and your entry may have occurred between transmissions.

The voice ID of your node is longer than the voice ID of their node, and the connection is made until the ID is fully played.

Their computer may be slower, and hence take longer to process the connection tha

Press and hold the microphone PTT for a second and then announce your presence intention such as you are calling someone specifically or just looking for a QSO with an in that city.

If no response is heard, announce your call and your intent to drop the link and then tou the OFF code. *Not a good idea to transmit touch-tone commands without first giving your call-sign. No courteous it is a regulatory issue in some countries who may be connected to the reflector.*

Some nodes are configured so you cannot connect to them if that repeater is active. If you will receive the message *"The node you are calling is being used locally"* If you re message wait 5 or 10 minutes and then try again.

If you stay connected to a node and there is no activity on your repeater for 4 mi connection will time out and automatically disconnect with a voice ID disconnect messa nodes.

WHAT ARE THE NODE CODES?

This is a very common question to which there is no single answer. Some node operato to add a prefix to their node. Also some nodes require membership so the easiest v current codes is to contact the node operator or custodian. To email a node ow <http://status.irlp.net>, find the node you wish to contact and click on the node numbe bottom of the node info is a link to create an email message.

CONNECTING TO THE REFLECTOR

As above, listen to your local machine for local use and then announce your intenti Reflector before keying the ON command. When you hear the confirmation ID always at least 15 seconds before transmitting as you are most likely now connected with many and a QSO could be in progress. If after 15 seconds you hear nothing, identify yo indicate you are listening to the Reflector from *"City and, Prov./State, Country"*. *With the wor activity your local repeater now has world wide coverage thus the suggestion to better detail your QTH.*

Don't be in a hurry to hear someone come back to you. You may have to do a bid of ple: time-to-time to dislodge someone from whatever they are currently involved with.

By default, connections to the reflectors now time out with no activity however many no set this period for a long period so it is not unusual for repeaters with minimal traffi connected to the Reflector for extended periods of time. When or if the node times c Reflector connection a standard time-out greeting will precede the timeout saying, *"Ac out ... Reflector xxxx, link off"*

If you are new to IRLP you should always consult with your local node sponsor to co the local guidelines on reflector connections in your area.

If you hear or wish to engage in a prolonged rag-chew on your local repeater (*long disc local nature*) out of courtesy to other node listeners drop the reflector.

ERROR MESSAGES

From time-to-time you may receive error messages when attempting to connect with a reflector. The most common ones are:

"The node you are calling is not responding, please try again later"

This is caused by a loss of internet connectivity to one end of the call attempt.

"BEEP Error- The call attempt has timed out, the connection has been lost"

This error occurs when a node is OFF-LINE. Some nodes such as in the UK use dial-up connection then, only for short periods. Also there may be temporary net or node problems.

"The Connection Has Been Lost"

If the internet connection drops, this error message will be heard. I found this out when I accidentally kicked out my network cable while working around the node computer.

DO'S and DON'TS

In summary then a few do's and don'ts

DO pause between transmissions to let other in or others to enter DTMF command.

DO identify before sending DTMF command tones.

DO hold your microphone PTT for about 1 second before talking to allow all system rise.

DO NOT rag-chew on your local repeater while connected to the reflector.

DO pause for 10 seconds or when entering the reflector before talking.

DO NOT start or plan a Net without pre-authorization from the reflector owner

IRLP QSLing

Many users of IRLP express desires to exchange QSL cards. With many IRLP users not HF they may have never considered having QSL cards printed. Now here is a new technology for you to easily exchange QSL cards.



eQSL is a new electronic QSL service that allows you to design your own card which is then formatted with your contact info and automatically sent to your contact. *card that I received from Chris VK6TNC from Morley, Western Australia.* While this eQSL generated card is plain, you are able to design your custom card from many graphical templates provided on the web site. This graphic is then used to automatically generate all of your outgoing cards with the contact info like the card above.

Check to see if you
have cards on
eQSL

The eQSL web site is <http://www.eQSL.cc> You can check right now to see if you already have cards waiting by placing your call in the form and pressing

Your Call

Search

The eQSL service is free supported by some advertising and private dor

Of course there is nothing like getting a real QSL card via the bureau or direct. If sending cards direct your remember that your local postage is not valid outside of your country so include a US dollar bill or an IRC to cover return postage.

OTHER TIPS

Do you have any suggestions on improving this help page? If so please email webguy@irlp.net



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