

The RST System – From ARRL Web Page - 101019

Readability

- 1**--Unreadable
- 2**--Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable.
- 3**--Readable with considerable difficulty.
- 4**--Readable with practically no difficulty.
- 5**--Perfectly readable.

Signal Strength

- 1**--Faint signals, barely perceptible.
- 2**--Very weak signals.
- 3**--Weak signals.
- 4**--Fair signals.
- 5**--Fairly good signals.
- 6**--Good signals.
- 7**--Moderately strong signals.
- 8**--Strong signals.
- 9**--Extremely strong signals.

Tone

- 1**--Sixty cycle a.c or less, very rough and broad.
- 2**--Very rough a.c., very harsh and broad.
- 3**--Rough a.c. tone, rectified but not filtered.
- 4**--Rough note, some trace of filtering.
- 5**--Filtered rectified a.c. but strongly ripple-modulated.
- 6**--Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation.
- 7**--Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation.
- 8**--Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation.
- 9**--Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind.

If the signal has the characteristic steadiness of crystal control, add the letter X to the RST report. If there is a chirp, the letter C may be added to so indicate. Similarly for a click, add K. The above reporting system is used on both cw and voice, leaving out the "tone" report on voice. Turn card over for examples.