

Get Your Feet Wet on PSK-31 with the SGC2020

Why not start with monitoring some signals and see what you think. It only requires two things:

- A single shielded stereo audio cable, connected from your 2020 External Speaker Port to the microphone or line in input of the sound card on your computer.
- A software program such as:
Digipan available free from <http://www.digipan.net/>
or Hamscope available free from <http://qsl.net/hamscope/>

Then tune your rig to 20 meters, at 14.070 USB. You will see signals represented as fat vertical lines on the waterfall across the bottom of the screen. Click on one of the 'tracks' and watch the data form in the receive buffer at the top. You may have to adjust the level of the microphone receive by clicking 'Waterfall Drive' on the options screen to optimize the display. Like other bands? Try these frequencies (all USB): 3.580, 7.070, 10.138, 18.095, 21.070, 24.919 and 28.120 MHz.

Thats it! Now, if you like what you see and want to join in on the fun, get an interface from one of the suppliers of commercial interfaces, or better yet, build the 'Peppermints' interface that you see on the demo rig.

Interface sources are available on the web at:

- Peppermints interface <http://www.waypt.com/users/~discobay/>
construction cost \$39
- Buxcom Rascal MkV <http://www.packetradio.com/rascalmkv.htm>
models from \$49
- Signal Link <http://www.tigertronics.com> models from \$49
- Rigblaster interface <http://www.westmountainradio.com>
models from \$59 to \$299
- MFJ interface <http://www.mfjenterprises.com> models from \$69 to 139

Sound Card Interface - Feature Comparisons

	Mic Switch	Plug in Rig Cable	Fully Isolated	Knob Level Control	Built in VOX
Build It Yourself					
KK7UQ	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ready to Go					
Without Microphone Switching					
Buxcom Rascal MkV	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Tigertronics Signalink	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Rigblaster Nomic	No	Yes	No	No	No
MFJ 1273B	No	No	No	No	No
Ready to Go					
With Mic. Switching					
Rigblaster Pro	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Rigblaster Std	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Rigblaster Plus	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
MFJ 1275	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
MFJ 1279	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Description of Features:

Mic Switching - Microphone plugs into interface. Audio to rig is switched between Microphone and Digital by either switch on interface or under control of Microphone PTT. Useful feature for SSTV operations.

Plug In Rig Cable - Cable to rig can be changed with a different cable so that one interface can be used with multiple rigs.

Fully Isolated - Has transformers on both input and output audio. PTT control isolated by relay or opto-isolator. Reduces noise and eliminates ground loops.

Knob Level Control - Has potentiometers for both input and output audio level adjustment brought out with knobs for ease of setting power output.

Built In VOX - Has a VOX circuit that detects when signal is present, and activates PTT to the rig. Advantage: does not require a separate serial port for the interface PTT control. Disadvantage - activates when any audio is seen. May interfere with sound card CW modes depending upon CW speed.