

# Feld Hell, A Facsimile Mode

by KC2LM

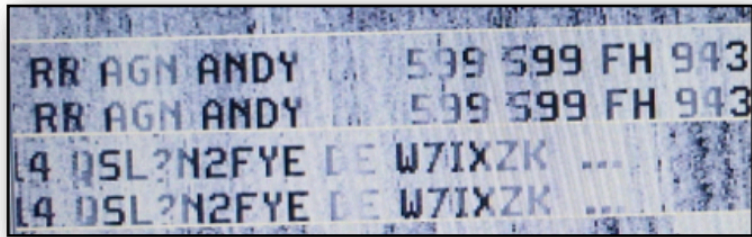
The technology for this mode is based on a facsimile system developed in the late 1920s by Rudolf Hell to be used in lieu of expensive and technically complex RTTY teleprinters. The original machine was a mechanical device that had only two moving parts that created two lines of identical text that looked like it was coming out in a slanted pattern. Having two lines, enabled the operator to read the message.

Although there are several versions, the single-tone version called Feld Hell is the most popular. It is an on/off keyed system with a low duty cycle which means your transmitter will run cooler. As a digital mode, it uses computers & sound card interfaces to send and receive text that paints /prints rather than decodes.

**The Feld Hell Club**, they have already heard all the jokes, is a special interest group that has a web page promoting the use of this mode on the ham bands.

[www.w1hkj.com](http://www.w1hkj.com)

The software package, **Fldigi** can be used to operate Feld Hell, as it is referred to. This software is available free on the **Signalink** software support page web site.



[http://www.tigertronics.com/sl\\_soft.htm](http://www.tigertronics.com/sl_soft.htm)

## Popular Feld Hell Operating Frequencies:

40 meters 7.077 to 7.089

\* Join the fun on the **Weekly Feld Hell Net**, Thursday 1900 UTC on 7.089 MHz

20 meters 14.063 (preferred) up to 14.069

## Additional Resources

1. Center for help files, visual and audio samples can be found at [www.w1hkj.com](http://www.w1hkj.com).
2. The Feld Hell Club Website can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>

**Contests:** Now, there doesn't seem to be a real crowd operating this mode other than during contest periods but during these times, you can easily make some contacts. Dates, times and bands of monthly contests are listed in the **Contest Corral** of **QST**.

Once you have zeroed in on the sounds created by the Feld Hell mode, (a sound file is available on the Feld Hell Club web site), you will see the grayscale text appearing on the screen. It looks like a scene from a Hollywood horror movie where the text on a tombstone slowly reveals itself.

Feld Hell is slower than PSK and RTTY, but weak signals can get through and I have had some relaxed QSOs with this mode. There is an excellent **YouTube video** explaining the mode by Randy, K7AGE at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yR-EmyEBVqA>

If you already have digital mode capabilities, try out Feld Hell during one of their contests. Check out the Feld Hell Club web page for exchange information and perhaps sign yourself up for a free membership number to join in on the fun. New comers are welcomed to Hell.

