ISSUE 01
AUTUMN 2026
WORLDWIDE EDITION

DELTA TANGO
INTERNATIONAL DX GROUP

"IT'S GOOD TO TALK"

The final courtesy of a QSO / DX is a QSL

DX REVIEW

CB RADIO
DXING
PEOPLE
PLACES
QSL CARDS
TECHNOLOGY
AND MORE...

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE DELTA TANGO INTERNATIONAL DX GROUP

WORLDWIDE DX COMMUNITY

GLOBAL CONTACTS • DX CULTURE
RADIO FRIENDSHIP

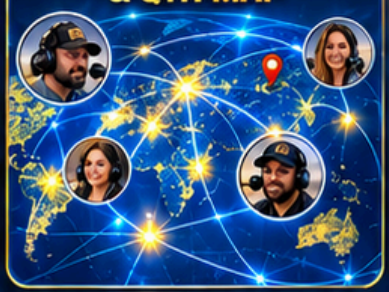
People Across the World on Radio



QSL CARDS & MEMBER GALLERY



MEMBERS NETWORK & QTH MAP



RADIO GUIDES, RESOURCES & SDR TOOLS



UK CB GUIDE



- 27/81 INFO
- CEPT RULES
- CHANNEL PLANS
- POWER LIMITS
- LICENCE-EXEMPT BASICS

JOIN THE DELTA TANGO COMMUNITY

deltatangodxgroup.com/deltatango

- NEW FRIENDS
- NEW COUNTRIES
- SHARE YOUR QSL CARDS
- LEARN & IMPROVE
- BE PART OF A GLOBAL GROUP

FREE
DIGITAL ISSUE
ISSUE 01

WORLDWIDE CB & DX RADIO COMMUNITY
PRESTON, ENGLAND

IT'S GOOD TO TALK

FROM THE EDITOR

WELCOME TO DX REVIEW

A new digital magazine with an old-school CB heart: big radios, lively contacts, proper QSL cards and radio friendship.

What is this?

DX Review celebrates the community built around **Delta Tango International DX Group**. It is a new editorial edition, not a recovered 1990s magazine. The type, colour and cover energy deliberately echo the classic CB press.

From international contacts to radio camps and late-night nets, the idea is simple: keep talking, keep learning and remember the people behind the callsigns.

The group in a nutshell

Founded in **Preston, Lancashire**, Delta Tango welcomes CB and DX operators with a wide range of experience. Its long-standing motto is **"It's Good to Talk."**

You can explore group membership, a searchable members network, QSL collections, radio guides and practical resources at the website.

Contents

03 Delta Tango across the world
04 Understanding 11-metre propagation
05 Antennas, SWR and clean signals
06 The QSL-card revival
07 UK CB: know your bands
08 Digital modes and FT8
09 Becoming a Delta Tango member
10 Nets, campouts and the operator
11 Radio tools, SDR and maps
12 New and used equipment
13 Delta Tango in the press
14 The back page: keep the band alive

A worldwide invitation

The pages ahead celebrate operators around the world: DX contacts, QSL exchanges, the members network, radio nets and practical guides. Find the people and the tools that keep our radio community talking.



A RETRO FEEL. A MODERN RADIO COMMUNITY. THE SAME GREAT HOBBY.

WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY

IT'S GOOD TO TALK

From Preston to the world: DX contacts, members, QSL exchanges and friendship through radio.

Built on radio friendship

Early operators including Allan (26 DT 001, later 153 DT 001) helped bring together a worldwide CB and DX radio community.

Members spread the word through on-air contacts, personal introductions and the exchange of QSL cards. Club unit numbers provided a shared identity, without replacing any licence or national radio authorisation.

Worldwide, not just local

The international DX tradition links stations across borders. A modest station, patient operator and favourable propagation can turn an ordinary evening into a memorable contact.

Club affiliation is a choice. The website states that members can also belong to other DX groups or hold amateur-radio licences.

An old magazine remembers

An **August 1996** American CB magazine review described Delta Tango as organised, friendly and internationally established, reporting members in more than 60 countries at the time.

That review described an elaborate welcome pack containing cards, envelopes, a membership certificate, a unit number, an identification card, a directory and operating references.

Those were *historical* benefits and prices, not today's offer. The article gives a snapshot of what CB club culture looked like in the mid-1990s.

A motto for today

"It's Good to Talk" is still relevant: share conditions, make time for new operators, acknowledge your contacts and put the social side of radio first.

A WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF OPERATORS

From paper QSLs and printed club magazines to today's member directory, QTH map, online gallery, radio nets and guides, Delta Tango continues to bring together operators and radio enthusiasts around the world.

DX WORKSHOP

WHEN THE SKIP COMES IN

There is no magic “DX switch.” On 27 MHz, propagation, time, location and good listening make the difference.

Start with the basics

Local paths generally rely on direct and ground-wave propagation. Longer contacts can appear when the ionosphere refracts radio waves back towards Earth.

Sporadic-E can bring sudden shorter-distance openings, often across hundreds or more than a thousand kilometres. Its appearance is patchy and unpredictable.

F-region propagation can favour much longer HF paths when solar and ionospheric conditions allow. A high solar-flux figure can be encouraging, but never guarantees a particular route.

Listen first

Check activity on your permitted channels, note the UTC time and compare what you hear on different days. A simple listening log helps you learn local patterns.

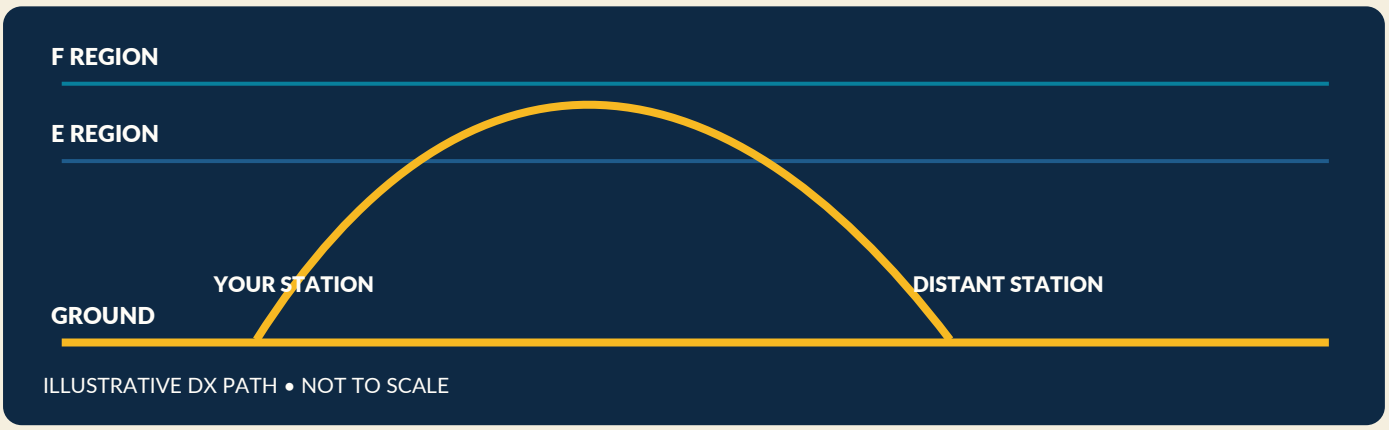
The DX watcher’s checklist

01 — Time: Record each opening in UTC.
02 — Signal: Write down readability and strength.
03 — Path: Note the station and rough direction.
04 — Conditions: Check solar and geomagnetic reports.
05 — Follow-up: Exchange contact confirmation if appropriate.

Online receivers can offer a valuable second listening location. They are useful for comparison, but a remote receiver cannot confirm what your own station will hear.

Science, not superstition

The NOAA planetary K-index tracks geomagnetic disturbance, whereas solar flux is one indicator of solar activity. Neither is a reliable one-number predictor of 11-metre DX.



ANTENNA BENCH

THE ANTENNA IS KING

Before buying a bigger radio, spend a little time improving the aerial system you already own.

A practical starting point

Height, location, mechanical security and a well-installed feedline often make more difference to reception than fancy advertising claims.

Match the antenna and feeder system carefully. A suitable SWR measurement helps identify a mismatch, but **low SWR does not guarantee a good radiator**. A dummy load can show a perfect reading while radiating almost nothing.

Four things to check

1. Confirm correct antenna length and frequency range.
2. Inspect plugs, coax and weather seals.
3. Keep antennas clear of overhead power lines.
4. Measure with appropriate equipment and power.

Mobile or base?

Mobile: A solid mounting point and appropriate ground-plane/counterpoise arrangement matter. Test with the vehicle as normally used.

Base: Consider neighbour safety, planning rules, wind loading and weatherproofing as well as performance.

Direction: A directional antenna can help select a path and reject unwanted signals, but needs a suitable structure and careful positioning.

The old-school lesson

The best station improvements usually start with measuring, changing one thing at a time, and recording results. Guesswork is expensive.

THE 1990s WORKBENCH TIP

Don't confuse an SWR reading with an antenna performance test. Compare actual reports and received signals before and after a change. Never adjust an antenna close to an energised electrical line. If in doubt, ask someone experienced to help.

QSL COLLECTORS

THE FINAL COURTESY

A QSL is more than a postcard: it is a small record of a conversation across the airwaves.

Why the cards matter

For generations of DX operators, QSL cards have turned a voice contact into a keepsake. A design might feature a callsign, a national flag, local scenery or the story behind an activation.

Delta Tango's gallery contains cards from a wide range of destinations. The collection is an excellent way to explore the group's history and its international links.

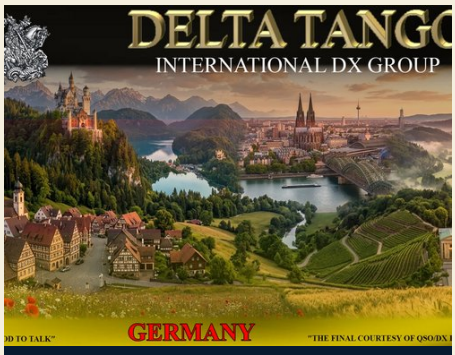
What to put on a QSL

Callsign or unit identifier, date, UTC time, frequency or channel, mode, signal report and any useful location reference.

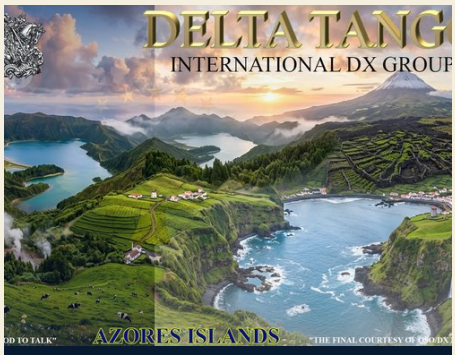
Only record information you are comfortable sharing. Use a club-approved postal or digital method and avoid exposing private addresses on public pages.



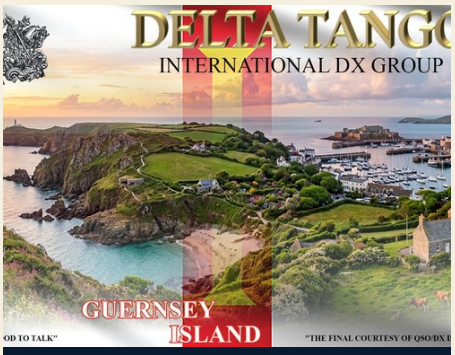
AUSTRALIA



GERMANY



AZORES ISLANDS



GUERNSEY



PHILLIPINES



THAILAND

IMAGE CREDIT: DELTA TANGO'S EXISTING QSL GALLERY • SELECTED PUBLIC CARD DESIGNS

RULES DESK

UK CB: THE LEGAL BIT

Enjoy your radio, but understand what the words “licence exempt” actually mean.

Two familiar channel plans

UK 27/81: Forty channels between 27.60125 MHz and 27.99125 MHz, intended for the UK CB FM / angle-modulated system.

CEPT/EU: Forty CB channels between 26.965 MHz and 27.405 MHz, with permitted equipment and approved modes including FM, AM and SSB as set out by Ofcom.

Power rules in brief

For typical compliant equipment, Ofcom describes a **4 W** ceiling for permitted FM carrier operation and **4 W RMS ERP AM / 12 W PEP SSB** under the relevant CEPT conditions.

Exact technical limits depend on mode, antenna arrangement and the applicable interface requirement. Check the latest official document before transmitting.

What licence-exempt isn’t

It is **not** permission to transmit anywhere on 27 MHz. Unauthorised “freeband” channels and power amplification outside permitted limits are a different matter.

An informal DX calling frequency such as **27.555 MHz** is outside the UK licence-exempt CB channel plans. Its popularity among some operators does not make it lawful under CB exemption.

Your Delta Tango callsign

A club unit number is for community identification. It does not confer Ofcom authorisation or supersede the radio rules where you operate.

CHECK THE REGULATOR — NOT JUST A FREQUENCY LIST

Ofcom CB guidance: ofcom.org.uk • **Technical requirements:** UK Interface Requirements IR 2027 and IR 2027.2. The magazine is educational, not a licence or legal advice. Regulatory details were reviewed for this 2026 issue.

DIGITAL OPERATING

FT8 ON 11 METRES?

The technology is interesting. The legal answer depends on the frequency, mode and authorisation — not on the software.

A new way to listen

FT8 is a structured digital mode using precisely timed transmissions and computer decoding. Weak signals that are difficult to understand by ear may still be recoverable by software.

The Delta Tango guide introduces WSJT-CB, a community adaptation used by some 11-metre experimenters. It explains software choices, time synchronisation, audio setup and operating workflow.

Receive first

A receive-only configuration is the safest way to explore decoding before considering transmission. Check that your equipment, mode and frequency are authorised wherever you live.

Five parts of a station

Radio: Suitable receiver and permitted transmitter.
Audio: Reliable interface or sound input.
Computer: Supported decoding software.
Timing: Correct computer clock.
Antenna: Properly installed for the band.

Don’t mix the modes

Standard FT8, the WSJT-CB fork and JS8Call are not interchangeable. Each program’s documentation explains its protocols and supported station identifiers.

The fact that an app provides a frequency preset does not establish a legal right to transmit on it.



ILLUSTRATIVE GRAPHIC • SEE THE WEBSITE FOR CURRENT DIGITAL RADIO GUIDES

MEMBERSHIP DESK

YOUR CALLSIGN, YOUR COMMUNITY

Newcomer or experienced DX operator: Delta Tango membership is designed to keep the hobby friendly and accessible.

Lifetime membership

The current website lists a one-time fee of **£10**, with no annual renewal. Members can receive a Delta Tango unit number, physical ID card and certificate, plus access to the directory and group activities.

A unit number is a hobby identity issued by HQ. It does not replace any nationally required radio authorisation.

What to expect

- Member directory and international community.
- Group QSL and gallery resources.
- Zello group and radio nets.
- Optional shop items and events.

Current payment methods and postage arrangements should be checked on the membership page.

A club, not a hierarchy

The published group philosophy says that belonging to other radio groups is welcome. Members are encouraged to help one another, and using a DT unit number is optional.

That is a useful message to carry forward: the best contact begins with courtesy, whatever callsign appears in the log.

How to join

Visit the membership page, read the guidance and complete the application. HQ handles membership details and can explain the payment options.

Keep private data private. Member addresses and personal records should not be copied into public pages or magazine articles.

JOIN DELTA TANGO / £10 LIFETIME

Apply online: deltatangodxgroup.com/deltatango/join.html
Included: unit number, card, certificate and access to member features, subject to the current membership terms.

ON-AIR COMMUNITY

A NET IS A MEETING PLACE

There is more to radio than chasing a distance record: it is about the people who answer.

North West Net

The Delta Tango website lists the **North West Net** as a place for operators to call in and put a callsign in the log. Its published historical schedule is the last Wednesday of the month, 19:00–21:00 UK time.

Important: Confirm that the net is currently operating and check the latest details before promoting a particular date or channel.

The magic of campouts

Radio camps bring faces to familiar voices. Trying a new antenna, sharing a station, comparing propagation notes and simply having a laugh are all part of the appeal.

How to make a good call

Listen: Hear the net controller and other stations first.
Identify: Give your identifier clearly.
Pause: Allow for weak and distant contacts.
Log: Make brief notes of date, time and station.
Confirm: Exchange a QSL or eQSL if agreed.

Keep the conversation going

Use the members network, chat page and group social channels to share conditions, propose a net topic or help a new operator.



INTERNET DX

THE WORLD IN YOUR BROWSER

A modern radio shack can connect to listening tools and learning resources as well as an antenna.

SDR: remote ears

WebSDR and KiwiSDR receivers let you listen through radio hardware placed elsewhere in the world. They offer a fascinating way to compare conditions and learn what different regions can hear.

A remote receiver is not a substitute for an authorised local transmitter. Check each service's terms and remember that a receiver location affects what it hears.

Propagation resources

The knowledge centre covers ionospheric conditions, Sporadic-E, logging, antennas, radio modes and DX etiquette. Some resources include links to NOAA and other specialist services.

Interactive site features

- Members Network and divisions.
- Searchable radio links and suppliers.
- Public QSL and photo gallery.
- Member QTH map and eQSL requests.
- Radio resources, net information and video hub.

The website's link library also points to useful DX clusters, logging resources, equipment suppliers and tutorials.

Learn something every week

Pick a single topic — grounding, SWR, Sporadic-E, Q-codes or safe digital decoding — and try to explain it in your own words afterwards. It is the quickest way to make progress.

TRY THE RADIO RESOURCES

Visit **deltatangodxgroup.com/deltatango/resources.html** for access to the knowledge centre, practical guides, digital radio articles, videos and other site features.

RADIO BUYER

THE SECOND-HAND SHACK

A used radio can be a brilliant buy — or an expensive repair project. Here's what to check before parting with your money.

Buying with your ears open

New and used CB equipment is sold by specialist shops, radio amateurs and private owners. Research the exact model, required supply voltage, features and legal compliance before buying.

Test receive and transmit where lawful, inspect the microphone socket and controls, and check that the radio is not advertised as "wideband" in a way that would defeat UK CB compliance.

The quick inspection list

1. Power cable and fuse correct?
2. Frequency display stable?
3. Squelch and volume smooth?
4. Transmit power within specification?
5. Antenna connector secure?
6. Evidence of overheating or modifications?

Where to look

The Delta Tango equipment directory collects links to CB and amateur-radio retailers, antennas, second-hand listings and technical support.

Examples of UK retailers covered by the resource directory include **Knights Electrocom**, **Radioworld**, **Nevada Radio** and others. This is an editorial resource listing, not a paid endorsement.

A buyer's golden rule

If the seller cannot demonstrate basic operation or answer straightforward questions, value the uncertainty into the price — or walk away.

For any transmit-capable equipment, confirm UK conformity rather than relying on a seller's "CB legal" label.

RADIO SHOPPING LINKS

Browse shops, used equipment, antennas, SDR tools and operator resources via **deltatangodxgroup.com/deltatango/links.html**. Listings may change; check stock, prices and seller terms directly.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

DELTA TANGO IN PRINT

Before social media, the CB magazines and club QSL exchanges carried international stories around the world.

August 1996: a review

An American CB magazine featured a detailed review of the Delta Tango membership package and the group's worldwide ambitions.

The writer praised the club's presentation and friendliness and described printed QSL cards, a personal membership certificate, directory materials and other radio references.

It also used the wording **"The World's Finest DX Group"** and described an ambition to encourage friendship through radio.

February 1998: QSL cards

Popular Communications featured original Delta Tango QSL-card imagery, including an Isle of Man activation linked to Allan and Hugh. It is a useful record of the club's early DX culture.

A worldwide reputation

That 1996 review described an international group reaching operators in more than 60 countries. It highlighted the welcome pack, personalised QSL cards and a friendly club culture.

For operators abroad, Delta Tango offered a way to exchange contact details, share radio experiences and build friendships across borders.

Preserve the archive

Old issues, paper QSLs, certificates, photographs and event programmes can fade or disappear. High-resolution scans, dates and contributor names can help keep them useful to future members.

Ask permission before publishing personal names, addresses or private directory records from historic material.

HISTORIC SOURCE NOTES

CB Radio, August 1996: contemporary group membership review. **Popular Communications, February 1998:** original Delta Tango QSL cards. Sources are discussed and linked in the group's research archive; this issue paraphrases rather than reproduces copyrighted magazine pages.

73 & GOOD DX

THE FINAL WORD FROM DX REVIEW



THE NEXT GOOD CONTACT COULD BE YOURS.

READ THE GUIDES • EXPLORE THE GALLERY • JOIN THE CONVERSATION

deltatangodxgroup.com/deltatango