

## D-Star Cheat Sheet

Welcome to the Okanagan's first D-Star repeater, VA7DIG. This information will help first-time D-Star users connect to and use the repeater.

### Registration

In order to use the D-Star network, you have to register your callsign and radio. The online instructions for this process are a little sparse, but if you follow these steps, you should be on your way.

- Point your web browser at <http://www.va7dig.com>
- Click on the registration link
- On the register page, click on the "Register" button to create a new account
- Click on the "YES" button to agree to the terms.
- Enter your callsign in UPPER CASE
- Enter your name and email address
- Enter a password between 8 and 16 characters. Enter the password a second time
- Click "Okay"
- Wait for the system administrator to authorize your account. Depending on how busy I am, this can take from a few minutes to several hours. You will receive an email once your account has been approved.
- Go back to <http://www.va7dig.com> and click on the registration link
- Enter your callsign (in UPPER CASE) and your password, and click "Login"
- Click "Personal Information"
- Click the checkmark by number 1.
- Under "Initial" type a single space
- Leave "Rpt" unchecked
- Under "pcname" type your callsign in lower case
- Click "Update"

That's it! Once approved, you can immediately start using the local repeater. It can take up to 24 hours (but usually an hour or less) for your registration to synchronize around the network. Once synchronized, you will be able to connect to other repeaters and reflectors.

### Radio Configuration

Each radio is different, so check your manual for the correct menu options. These are the parameters you're going to want to set.

The repeater frequency is 145.090 with an offset of +600. Your radio needs to be set to DV (digital voice), not FM.

In the callsign menu, you'll want to set the following:

Your: CQCQCQ  
RPT1: VA7DIG C  
RPT2: VA7DIG G  
My: (your callsign)

What are these settings?

The “Your” is the callsign you’re connecting to. Unless you’re calling someone with callsign squelch enabled, you’ll leave the “Your” parameter as “CQCQCQ” most of the time. This means “Talk to anybody”.

The “RPT1” field is the name of the repeater and the module you’re connecting to. In our case, the repeater is “VA7DIG”. The 8th character is the module, so we leave a space after VA7DIG, and put in module “C”. Module C is the 2m module. Eventually, we will have module B (70cm) and module A (1.2GHz).

The “RPT2” callsign is used for repeater routing. In today’s D-Star network, this is almost always set to the gateway of the local repeater. In our case, that’s module “G”, so we set it to “VA7DIG G” - note the space to place the module in the 8th character position.

The “My” callsign is your own callsign. This has to be exactly as registered under the “Personal Information” above. Some radios allow you to place up to 4 characters after a slash symbol. These can be anything you like, such as your radio model, your name, or just blank.

You’re now ready to make your first QSO on the repeater!

## Special Features

If you’ve used EchoLink or IRLP, you may be familiar with the concept of reflectors. Reflectors allow many repeaters to connect and all chat together. Linking and unlinking from reflectors, and other special repeater functions, are controlled with the “Your” field. Here’s a list of some of the features that we have enabled on the VA7DIG repeater.

Usually these special commands are entered in the 8th column (or 7th and 8th columns). You will have to enter the correct number of spaces to make sure this command is in the right column. Some radios have a way to store multiple “Your” values that you can quickly scroll through and select.

You can change “Your” to the following. The dots are showing you how many spaces to use. Replace the dots with spaces when you put these commands in your radio.

.....I    Ask repeater to identify. This will display the repeater’s callsign in the message area on your display.

.....U     Unlink. This will unlink from any reflector or repeater that may currently be linked.

.....E     Echo test. This will repeat back to you your transmission. This is useful for checking your audio levels and signal quality. It's a good idea to make sure you're unlinked from any reflectors before using this command.

.....LX     Link to the last busy reflector. This is a special script that we've installed. It will connect you to the last busy reflector that was used on the network. This is useful for late at night and you're looking for a reflector with some activity on it.

**REFxxxal**     Link to reflector #xxx port #a. For example REF001CL. Reflector 001C is the main chat reflector for the D-Star network. There is usually quite a bit of activity here, and lots of experienced D-Star users ready to help out new users. For the first little while, we're going to keep the repeater linked to reflector 001C. Feel free to unlink to use the repeater locally. A quick "REF001CL" after you're done will link it back up giving people monitoring something to listen to. There's a list of available reflectors at <http://www.dstarinfo.com/reflectors.aspx>

After setting "Your" to one of the above codes, key up the repeater for a second or two, and the command will be executed. Remember to set "Your" back to "CQCQCQ" after entering a command.

## Have Fun

This is just a quick introduction. If you want to connect multiple radios, or devices such as the DVDongle or DVAP, let me know and I can help you out. Remember, it's difficult to actually break anything, so have fun and experiment. That's what amateur radio is all about!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me!

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